MediaScene

NO.9 • INCORPORATING COMIXSCENE • MARCH–APRIL 1974 • SEVENTY–FIVE CENTS

THE FANTASTIC ADVENTURES OF DOC SAVAGE BY KENNETH ROBESON
WORLD'S FAIR GOBLIN
DOC SAVAGE
THE FANTASTIC ADVENTURES OF DOC SAVAGE BY KENNETH ROBESON
THE FANTASTIC ADVENTURES OF DOC SAVAGE BY KENNETH ROBESON
THE GREEN DEATH
DOC SAVAGE

ALL HERO ISSUE!

A SUPERGRAPHICS PUBLICATION

MEDIASCENE

march-april 1974
publisher and editor
STERANKO
associate editor
KEN BRUZENAK
correspondents
GARY BROWN, DOUG MURRAY, BOB WEINBERG, DON GLUT, AMY MURRELL, MAX COLLINS, JOEL THINGVALL

MEDIASCENE is a bi-monthly publication devoted to popular culture in multimedia from the comics to the cinema
SUBSCRIPTION RATES: single issue .75 year 4.00 published by supergraphics po box 445/wyomissing pa/19610
copyright ©1974 james steranko
all rights reserved

cover: ron ely as doc savage
2 editorial
4 special feature: the filming of doc savage
6 media news: film/tv coverage
10 zardoz: interview with film director john boorman
12 centerspread: talon
14 action/suspense/adventure books: spotlight on new series
16 preview: an advance look at tarzan's world
18 comixscene: news/views/reviews from the world of comics
22 science fiction: a report on new and future publications
next issue: double-issue/science fiction spectacular

MEDIASCENE

You're probably wondering what you're doing with an ALL-HERO ISSUE when you expected SCIENCE FICTION this month!

The reason is simple: The MEDIASCENE READER'S POLL! Since we initiated the poll several issues ago, we've kept an accurate record of each response that's been mailed to us. In our tally, we've discovered an almost unanimous approval and preference for science fiction material. We responded by doubling our SF news. Again we were deluged by favorable mail. So much in fact that we decided to reconsider structuring this issue around a science fiction theme—instead formulating a new idea to adequately showcase the material in preparation.

In the meantime, we had amassed a considerable amount of news on the **Doc Savage** film, received word of a new **Tarzan** poster, got the chance to cover **Zardoz**, and turned up a number of other developments that clinched the decision to put together an ALL HERO ISSUE.

OK, but what about the sci-fi issue? After weighing every possibility, we decided to go all the way—to create another super-spectacular double issue in much the same way that we published the acclaimed SWORD AND SORCERY ISSUE last year. The format will remain the same: front section packed with the latest news and reviews from the world of media entertainment, second section devoted entirely to science fiction art, articles and graphics. Specially illustrated features will explore every area of the SF universe—from the blazing pulps of the 30's and 40's to the films and comics of the 70's. The spotlight will be on art and artists who specialize in the SF field as we take a sizzling, sweeping survey of everything from **Flash Gordon** to **Fahrenheit 451**. It'll be the collector's issue of the year!

Just to make certain you're with us, we're including with every subscriber's issue A FREE **STAR SHIP CREW** POSTER! ! We've always claimed that **MEDIASCENE** readers get more for their money and proved it in 1973 by giving away a full-color Talon poster with every subscription. We're going to do it again with issue 10 as a way of saying thanks to those of you who have given your support since we began publishing way back in 1970. Be sure your subscription is up-to-date (only subscribers will receive the free poster)—'cause we're certain you won't want to miss this block-busting double-issue.

Future issues of **MEDIASCENE** will continue to reflect the interests of our readers, so don't hesitate to drop us a line and cue us on the directions you'd like us to take.

Speaking of directions, judging by your response, last issue's pin-up girl coverage was a smashing success. So many of you liked the idea that we've imported a book we discovered in Europe devoted entirely to the girls of the comics. Connoisseurs will welcome the volume to their collections. It's listed on our order form page.

We expected an enthusiastic approval to our new format which increased our word count by twenty per cent— **and got it**! Our name change from **COMIXSCENE** to **MEDIASCENE** is also gaining wide acceptance as readers begin to investigate the material reviewed and recommended in our entertainment news features.

As an author, artist and publisher, much of my life has been spent entertaining people. Creative drive, I've discovered is an instinctive trait that feeds upon itself in addition to thirsting for external gratifcation. One of the philosophies that developes within the creative individual is the one which demands he please himself: "If I like it, others will like it." Egocentric to be sure, but ego is essential to the act of creation because so much of the individual goes into forging a poem or a painting—not to mention the self-protection it affords from the fires of destructive criticism and ridicule.

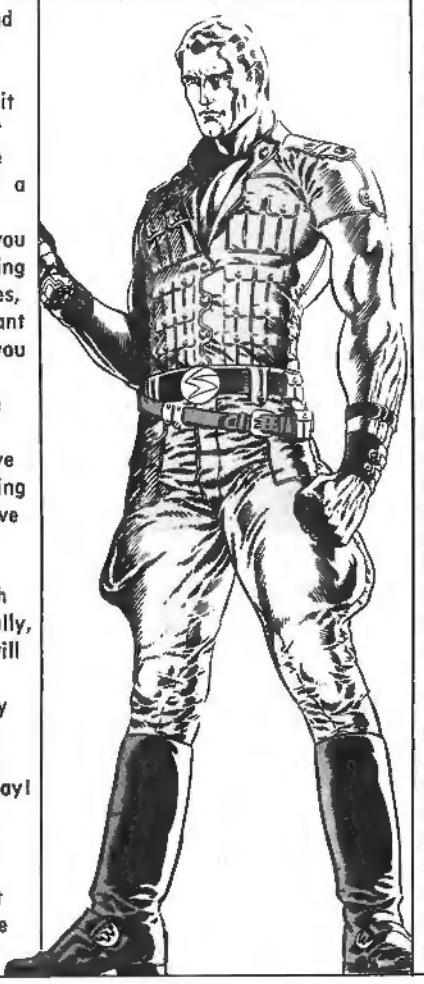
That philosophy may also be applied to **MEDIASCENE**—every bit as much of a personal statement as any book or illustration we've ever done. When we recommend a book or a film, it's something we've enjoyed and believe that you will too. If we spend time discussing Don Pendleton's Executioner series, it's because we've read it and want to share it with our readers. If you find us giving sanction to the works of John Boorman or Andre Norton, Les Dent, Jack Vance or Mickey Spillane, it's because we've tried them, found them entertaining and think you will too after you've experienced them.

We sift through hundreds of books, films and magazines each month, appraise every one carefully, and select only those we know will interest and entertain our readership. **MEDIASCENE**'s policy is to turn it's reader's on to the newest and most exciting forms of entertainment to be found today! Try it—and see what we mean!

If you've been thinking about completing a run of **COMIXSCENE/MEDIASCENE**, don't wait too long. Certain issues are in very short supply and will no longer be available to collector's when we run out. Issue 5, our giant sword and sorcery double issue is the current best-seller and still in stock.

Several items have turned up on the market lately that we felt deserved your attention. The first installment of the **Gods of Mount Olympus** has been pubished by Quintessence in a handsome 16-page tabloid-size format. Drawn by Joe Staton and scripted by Johnny Achziger, the opening episode of the projected series comes off as a lively, tastful, well-executed treatment of mythological mores and miracles. An impressive job, by fans for fans, and deserves your support. Send a buck to Box 5246, Spokane, Wash. 99205.

Jerry Bails, one of the pioneers of comic fandom, tells us that the second and third volumes of the **Who's Who of American Comic Books** will be released later this year. The **Who's Who** lists the most complete biographical data on comic artists, writers and editors ever assembled, and is an invaluable tool for collectors, students and researchers of comic art. Listed alphabetically, Volume 1 (A-F) is available for $5.00 plus .35 postage. The remaining volumes are available at a pre-publication price of $11.00 postpaid. Do yourself a favor and add these important books to your comic library now. Write to 487 Lakewood Blvd., Detroit, Mich., 48215. Tell Jerry we sent you.



NOMAD DEPT: If you're planning a change of address in the near future, be certain to let us know about it so we can change the mailing data in our subscription listings. Notification of address changes must include the old and the new locations and, if possible, with which issue the subscription began. All changes are processed prior to each mailing, so give us enough time and insure receiving every issue without delay.

This month **MEDIASCENE** gives its most penetrating and comprehensive look at the heroes and heroines of modern fiction and film. Doc Savage, the dynamic man of bronze who captured the lead feature in our premiere issue, returns to thrill his followers, this time by way of a new live-action movie directed by film fantasist George Pal. In this sizzling scoop, **MEDIASCENE** unveils the first photos available from the production, besides revealing a number of dramatic details about the production, cast, plot and special effects. Additional coverage on the **Doc Savage** film is coming up in future issues, including a special interview with Pal.

More hero happenings are on hand as we preview a fantastic, new poster-map of Tarzan's World by special permission from its publisher, Ballantine Books. Every Tarzan fan will want to add this colorful and carefully executed super-poster to his collection.

A complete rundown of the top action/adventure series on the market today will be found in the paperback book review section. Readers born too late for the pulp era will have ample opportunity to sample the kind of excitement that was available on the newsstands in the 30's and 40's by simply crusin' the local book racks. Hard core adventure character series are materializing on the stands every week, just like in the days when **The Shadow, The Spider, G-8 and His Battle Aces, Operator 5, Captain Satan, Wu Fang, Ace G-Man, Captain Future** and a legion of other crusading crime-crushers blazed their way across America's reading habits.

History is repeating itself—and you'll want to be part of the action as an army of relentless crime-fighters blanket the nation's newsstands in a combined effort to eliminate the heartbeat of evil from their own worlds. They're easy to find—the covers that visualize them are always drenched with color—usually red. They have names like Mack Bolan, Edge, The Lone Wolf, Killinger, The Phantom, The Inquisitor, Malko, The Sharpshooter, Hardman, The Marksman, Doc Savage, Drake and The Death Merchant. Action, suspense, mystery, horror, mayhem and murder are only openers where these guys are concerned. It looks like the bloody pulps are still with us! Agree?

A galaxy of the latest and greatest science fiction novels and anthologies are covered in our next section. Everything from the new Star Trek series to the top in speculative fiction will be found in the most up-to-date listings and pictorial coverage to be found today. A special report on ACE BOOKS Edgar Rice Burroughs' epic fantasies caps off this issue's SF column.

An avalanche of comic book news follows, detailing the latest adventures of a cavalcade of super heroes and swordsmen and the men who fashion their fictional lives. Summer always creates a wave of comic happenings and this year is no exception. We've continued to tap the highest sources to give you the lowdown on a new **Conan** title, another **Iron Fist** magazine and a score of other surprises. More comic news and views than ever before!

This month, **MEDIASCENE** spotlights an electrifying new science fiction adventure film, **Zardoz**. A commentary on the structure and substance of the picture is followed by a revealing interview with John Boorman, who wrote, produced and directed it.

More film and TV coverage is on hand as we essay the current media entertainment scene and take a eye-opening look into the future. According to our readers' poll, this feature has become one of the most popular of our new directions.

This issue's wrap-up is a giant, colorful centerspread that may be our most celebrated double-page poster offering yet. Readers have written requesting more of our sword and sorcery hero, Talon. So, in keeping with this issue's theme, we took the opportunity to feature a return appearance by the most elusive barbarian of them all.

If nothing else, this issue's heroics should get your blood up just in case you have the opportunity to find your own kind of heroic adventure in the summer months ahead. Don't fail to be on hand for our SPECIAL SCIENCE FICTION SPECTACULAR coming up next. Til then, take care.

STERANKO

mediascene reader's poll

As MEDIASCENE continues its second year of publication, the likes, dislikes, and predilections of our readers becomes more important than ever to us. We want to know how MEDIASCENE readers feel about the material presented to them. Your participation in MEDIASCENE, by letting us know what you want, is vital. By filling out this MEDIASCENE READERS POLL, we hope to determine what our readers like and want to see. Help us to help you! Check the box indicating your opinion concerning the material in this issue, and the ideas below, cut out the column and send it to us, along with any other opinions you may have about MEDIASCENE to:

MEDIASCENE READER'S POLL
Box 445
Wyomissing, Pa. 19610

YES	NO	
☐	☐	Cover
☐	☐	Doc Savage Film
☐	☐	Action books
☐	☐	Sci-fi news
☐	☐	Centerspread
☐	☐	Media news
☐	☐	Comic news
☐	☐	Tarzan map
☐	☐	Film interview
☐	☐	Back cover

PIN UP GIRLS

In response to the interest generated by our special pin-up issue, **MEDIASCENE** has acquired a small number of copies of the French book, **Les Filles De Papier** (The Paper Girls). This 130-page volume contains a wealth of sexsational art, illustrating the captivating beauty of the girls of the comics. American, European and underground artists are all represented in this hard-to-find item with 32 pages in full, fabulous color. We have only a few of these scorchers available now for a limited time only—at $5.00 plus .40 postage. A must for all those who love girls—and comics! !

When ordering Supergraphics products use the order form printed on this page. If you don't wish to cut up the issue, make a photo copy of the form and fill it in—or write out your complete name and address on a separate piece of paper for EACH product ordered.

Print or type your name and address CLEARLY and be sure to include your ZIP CODE. Unclear addresses and zips can only result in your order being lost in the mails. Insure your order by giving us clear and concise information.

DO NOT ORDER FROM BACK ISSUES — certain items are dated and no longer available. Use order forms from the current issue only. Allow 4-6 weeks for delivery of merchandise — checks must clear the bank BEFORE orders are mailed. No COD's accepted.

When subscribing to MEDIASCENE or ordering Supergraphics products, please follow the procedure outlined here: Subscribe to MEDIASCENE for a single issue or a year only—DO NOT SEND FOR ODD ISSUES. Subscriptions begin with the issue in production, not with back issues. Single issues .75 —Six issue subscription $4.00.

FOREIGN SUBSCRIPTIONS AND ORDERS: Our mailing process does not allow for MEDIASCENE subscriptions outside the USA. Due to the high cost of mailing and special handling, an additional charge of $2.00 per six issues must accompany each foreign subscription.

ALL FOREIGN ORDERS (including Canada) in U.S. funds only. All orders outside the USA, add .25 postage and handling for each package ordered.

MEDIASCENE subscriptions are always mailed the day following the printing of each issue. All subscriptions are mailed the same day —no interim mailings are made.

ORDER FORM INFO

Subscription orders received ten days prior to each mailing will be included in that issue's mailing. Orders received after that date will be entered on our subscription lists for the following issue.

Back issues of COMIXSCENE are still available. See order form for details. Back issues of COMIXSCENE are mailed out during our regular subscription mailing schedule.

Subscriptions that have expired are indicated by a blue line running through the right side of the mailing label. In addition, each issue is stamped with a notice indicating that issue is the final one of the subscription. Keep count of your issues so you'll know when your subscription runs out.

Wait until your current subscription runs out before renewing it, otherwise your reorder may be too early, resulting in a duplication of your subscription. Upon receiving your expiration issue, subscribe immediately so you won't miss an issue—orders take time to process! Don't get caught with your plans down!

CHANGE OF ADDRESS: when changing your address, please notify us immediately, allowing at least three weeks for processing the change. We cannot assume responsibility for missing issues due to failure to report address changes.

O'RYANN

Before we forget, we recently unearthed a promotional publication of our projected strip, O'RYANN. Only several hundred copies remain of this 16-page book which summarizes the O'Ryann epic and its development. Graphics include a series of lead-up approaches to the subject, pin-ups of the main characters, and the controversial splash page which resulted in Marvel rejecting the strip. O'RYANN is outrageously priced at $3.00 plus .25 postage and handling.

order form

Use the CHECK LIST FORM on this page when ordering Supergraphics products. Read the ordering instructions carefully before filling out the forms. Check the boxes to indicate the material you are ordering. On multiple orders, please add the amounts of each item accurately, double checking to avoid mistakes that will delay your order from being sent out. Write in the total on the line furnished. PRINT your name and address CLEARLY and include your ZIP CODE number. Fill out separate forms for the groupings listed below.

BOOKS
- ☐ Encyc. of Heroes - Vol. 1 $3.00 plus .25 postage
- ☐ Encyc. of Heroes - Vol. 2 $3.00 plus .25 postage
- ☐ Encyc. of Heroes - Vol. 3 $3.00 plus .25 postage
- ☐ All three above books $7.50 — we pay postage
- ☐ History of Comics - Vol. 1 $4.00 plus .25 postage
- ☐ History of Comics - Vol. 2 $6.00 plus .40 postage
- ☐ Mike Hinge Experience $3.00 plus .25 postage
- ☐ O'Ryann $3.00 plus .25 postage

I am enclosing _____
Please send the above items.

name _____
address _____
city/state/zip _____

POSTERS
- ☐ Talon poster $1.25 plus .25 postage
- ☐ Starship Crew poster $1.25 plus .25 postage
- ☐ History Vol. 1 poster $1.50 plus .50 postage
- ☐ History Vol. 2 poster $1.50 plus .50 postage
- ☐ Area 5 Viewscreen $2.00 plus .25 postage
- ☐ Onyx Cube $2.00 plus .25 postage
- ☐ Explo-logical $1.75 plus .25 postage
- ☐ Meta-magic $1.75 plus .25 postage
- ☐ Parsec City Plug-in No. 2 $2.00 plus .25 postage
- ☐ Justice $1.75 plus .25 postage
- ☐ Deck 4 Zero $2.00 plus .25 postage
- ☐ Daily Earth Chronicle (Onyx) $1.75 plus .25 postage
- ☐ Roach Bus (Onyx) $1.75 plus .25 postage
- ☐ Onyx Calendar (Onyx) $1.75 plus .25 postage
- ☐ Electronyx (Onyx) $1.75 plus .25 postage

I am enclosing _____
Please send the above items.

name _____
address _____
city/state/zip _____

OTHER
- ☐ Paper Girls $5.00 plus .40 postage
- ☐ Supergirls Calendar $3.50 plus .50 postage
- ☐ Mediascene subscription $4.00 for six issues
- ☐ Mediascene Foreign Sub. $6.00 for six issues
- ☐ Comixscene back issues (1) $3.00 (2) (3) (4) (6) $2.00 each (5) $2.50 each
- ☐ Mediascene back issues (7) (8) $2.00 (9) $1.00

I am enclosing _____
Please send the above items.

name _____
address _____
city/state/zip _____

Send all orders to:
SUPERGRAPHICS
BOX 445
WYOMISSING, PA. 19610

comixscene back issues

For a limited time only, we have a quantity of back issues available, but our stock is rapidly running out! If you are missing any of the early issues of COMIXSCENE, now is the time to get them!

savage

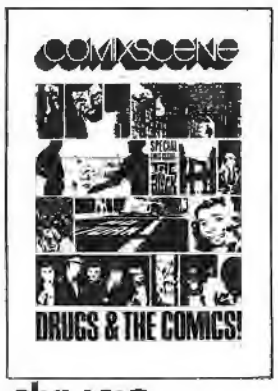
No. 1 — Power packed premiere issue on DOC SAVAGE, illustrated versions of Doc by Mike Ploog, Gene Colan, Dan Adkins, Marie Severin and Steranko. Big Doc Savage article spotlights the Man of Bronze. News and reviews, capped off by pulp and comic reproductions. Full-page Shadow presentation piece by Steranko.

shazam

No. 2 — Special CAPTAIN MARVEL issue, featuring the story behind Beck's reunion with the Big Red Cheese, illustrated with photos of artists and writers from the 40's and the 70's. Beck's Rip Van Marvel appears, along with articles on the Spider pulps, Krupp underground comix and an offbeat and surprising centerspread by Steranko.

horror

No. 3 — Haunting HORROR COMICS issue, from EC to the Marvel black and whites to the undergrounds, all discussed and dissected in a definitive article, illustrated with dozens of vintage horror comic covers. "Frogs," the wordless, innovative graphic story by Steranko, appears in the centerspread. Pictorial feature on Horror Pulps.



drugs

No. 4 — DRUGS AND THE COMICS is the theme of this special issue that examines the role of comics and drug usage. The controversial 8-page anti-drug story "The Block," by Steranko highlights this issue, along with the story behind its creation. Plus more news, articles, features, and behind-the-scenes editorial by Steranko.

sorcery

No. 5 — Special SWORD AND SORCERY issue. Giant double issue featuring news, articles and art. Never before published illustrations by Maroto, de la Fuentes, Smith, Kubert, Kirby, Steranko and others. Definitive articles on Conan and Howard, The Evolution of S&S and Barbarians in the Comics, and more on the heroic fantasy field.

burroughs

No. 6 — Big BURROUGHS issue, full of action-packed facts and graphics. An article on Burroughs of the Pulps is featured along with giant centerspread poster-map of Barsoom. John Carter's long and fantastic career is recapped with rare pulp illustrations. Comic scene, paperback reviews, films, records and media fill out the package.

violence

No. 7 — Colorful CRIME AND VIOLENCE issue, from Public Enemy to Magnum Force, featuring Steranko cover and centerspread paintings. Interview with Executioner author Don Pendleton, writing for crime thrillers by Max Collins and Clint Eastwood profile. Expanded news in Sci-fi and media to go with title change to Mediascene.

pin-ups

No. 8 — Pixillatin' PIN-UP issue, packed with a special graphic history of pin-up art from comics to calendars to cinema. A Steranko tribute to Marilyn Monroe graces the centerspread, along with pin-ups from the past. Larger comics, Sci-Fi and media news are heavily illustrated with exciting graphics in a new, redesigned format.

MEDIASCENE SPECIAL REPORT: THE FILMING OF DOC SAVAGE

Doc Savage, the bronze giant of the pulps who became the paragon of virtuous manhood to nearly every boy during the great depression of the 1930's is about to leap from the pages of pulp fiction to the nation's movie screens. The film, **Doc Savage . . . Man of Bronze,** will be produced by veteran science-fiction filmmaker George Pal, and will be directed by Academy Award nominee Michael Anderson for Warner Bros.

A legendary figure who waged a relentless war against bizarre masterminds, world tyrants and fantastic crime cartels, Doc Savage was one of the most successful characters ever spawned by the pulp fiction factories. Titles such as "Quest of the Spider," "The Thousand-headed Man," "The Roar Devil," "Mad Eyes," "Cold Death," and "The Devil Genghis" kept Doc's incredible adventures in demand for more than fifteen years on a one-a-month basis. His super-sales power proved that he could, indeed, do everything better than anyone else.

In the last ten years, Bantam Books has reprinted over 75 of the 181 Doc Savage novels and has over 15 million copies now in print, proving the Savage success to be as strong now as it was thirty years ago. Pal plans to repeat the formula in the movies and has bought the film rights in the hopes that a series can be developed that will appeal not just to old timers on a nostalgia kick, but to kids of all ages.

"Research proves that science-fiction buffs, people who like camp, kids, and the original books' readers are snapping up the reprints," Pal revealed. "We think the same thing will happen with the movie audiences." People of every background, in fact, are rediscovering the great bronze demi-god, the invention of ex-newspaperman Lester Dent, who wrote under the psuedonym of Kenneth Robeson.

The film version recreates Les Dent's premiere Doc Savage tale, which introduces Doc's background, his aides, the Fortress of Solitude, the source of his fabulous wealth and his working methods. Pal, in addition to producing the movie, personally undertook the task of adapting the novel to the screen.

In the novels and the film, Doc is always pre-eminent. For openers, he is the smartest man in the world—and the handsomest. "His eyes are pools of flaked gold; and his perfect features display a power of character seldom seen. His giant frame, tanned by tropical suns and arctic winds to a permanent bronze, possesses a strength superhuman." He can dodge a bullet, crawl up a wall like a human fly, stay underwater for eight minutes, smash through an inch-thick steel door with one punch and take on a dozen armed men with his bare hands.

Finding an actor to play the Man of Bronze on the screen proved to be an interesting task. A world-wide search was launched by Pal and Warner Bros. to find the perfect Doc Savage, resulting in the casting of the former TV Tarzan, Ron Ely. The muscular 6'5" Ely was selected from the thousands of letters and phone calls, hundreds of interviews and twenty screen tests viewed by Pal, Anderson and Warner studio executives.

Ely is a change of pace from the version of Doc described in the books as possessing "a strong, high forehead surmounted by a bronze skullcap of closely cropped hair." Despite this description, pulp cover painters of the 30's, such as Walter Baumhoffer, Emery Clark and R. G. Harris were instructed by Street and Smith editors to depict him as "looking very much like Clark Gable." Interior illustrations by Paul Orban and Edd Cartier continued the tradition.

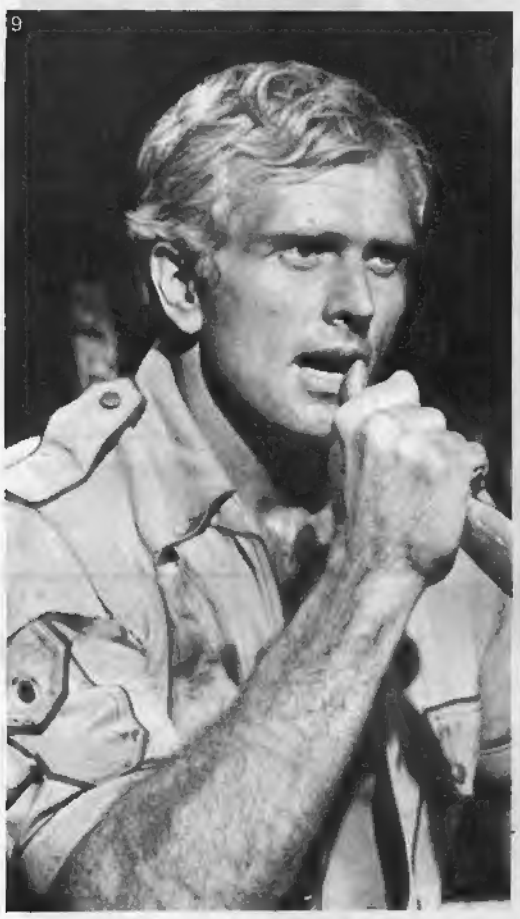
At the height of his career, the Man of Bronze was featured in **Doc Savage Comics,** which chronicled his globe-spanning, yet still portrayed him in the Gable tradition. With Bantam's 60's revival came the first accurate view of Doc Savage, painted with ultra-realistic technique by award-winning illustrator James Bama. Faithful to a fault, Bama's Savage was a tensed mass of overly-proportioned muscle, rippling sinews and bulging tendons. Using early TV's Flash Gordon, Steve Holland, as a model, Bama pictorialized Doc in striking monochromatic illustrations complete with lurking menace and exotic atmosphere. Becoming a trademark, the half-turned figure draped in a torn and impossibly wrinkled shirt was seen on the covers of nearly seventy paperbacks until Bama retired from the field in 1971.

The following year witnessed another version of Doc, when Marvel Comics acquired the character. Inspired by the success and physical appeal of the Bantam image, Marvel attempted to mimic Bama's approach in adaptations of the pulps in comic form. The results were a handful of soporific magazines that failed to capture the magic and the majesty of the Doc Savage mystique.

Coincident with the Doc Savage comic, the first issue of **COMIX-SCENE** appeared with a Doc Savage theme which featured interpretations of Doc by Dan Adkins, Mike Ploog, Marie Severin, Gene Colan and Steranko. Eventually, that issue of **COMIXSCENE** reached the hands of George Pal, who was doing research for the film at the time, and influenced him in his choice of actors and costume design. From the Steranko illustration came the short-sleeved, multi-pocketed vest and matching riding breeches, the insignia belt-buckle, the leather wrist-bands and the facial characterization that might best be described as intellectual, intense, penetrating and virile. Pal felt the Steranko version fit Dent's original conception more aptly than the Gable look or the Bama interpreta-

PHOTOS 1) Johnny, Ham, Renny and Long Tom - The Amazing Five 2/3/4) Doc Savage on location 5) Ham, Monk and friend 6) Portrait of Clark Savage 7) Doc in action 8) The Golden Knife 9/12) Ron Ely 10) Michael Anderson, Ron Ely and George Pal 11) Journey to Hidalgo 13) Mike Miller 14) Darrell Zwerling

8


9

10

11

12

13

14

tion. Ely's qualifications fit the role perfectly.

In the film, as in the books, Doc will be joined by his aides, known as the "Amazing Five" his companions in adventure and excitement, the five greatest brains ever assembled in one group.

Certainly the most colorful and volatile of the five, Lieutenant Colonel Andrew Blodgett Mayfair, also known as "Monk," presented a peculiar casting problem due to his physical description: "Only a few inches over five feet tall, and yet over 260 pounds, his brutish exterior, homely face and squeaky voice conceal the mind of a brilliant chemist." Filling this demanding part, and making his film debut will be Michael Miller, a veteran of Chicago and Pittsburgh theater performances, and guest appearances on various television shows.

"Ham," Brigadier General Theodore Marley Brooks, is the dapper lawyer of the crew, and his role as "the slender and waspy fashion plate always carrying an ominous black sword cane" is filled by Darrell Zwerling, also a Chicago and Pittsburgh theater alumnus, as well as of the New York stage, TV and film.

An ex-federal investigator named William Lucking portrays Colonel John Renwick, "Renny," "the world's greatest engineer." Paul Gleason, who has worked extensively in such shows as the **FBI** and **Mission: Impossible**, will play the part of the world's greatest electrical wizard, Thomas "Long Tom" Roberts. Rounding out the cast will be Eldon W. Quick as the gaunt, bony, "world-renowned expert on geology and archeology," William Harper Littlejohn, "Johnny."

Considerable thought and care went into the choice of these five to guarantee that they not only suited the parts, but interacted with one another dramatically in what Pal hopefully feels is the first of a series of films based on the fantastic adventures of the Man of Bronze.

The cast and crew travelled to Colorado's Grand mesa mountain range where most of the location footage was shot. Interesting and colorful gimmicks were manufactured to re-create the pulp's technology, like Doc Savage name-plates (utilizing the Bantam Books logo design) which were applied to special equipment on the set. Intricate guns, and even a stripped-down helicopter with Doc's name-plate attached add to the overall look of the production.

The most intricate set is the Arctic dome, Doc's Fortress of Solitude —a huge cone-shaped structure made of special plastic glass blocks which allow powerful arc lights to seep through and convey the illusion of an Arctic sun overhead.

Meticulous attention was paid to detail, since **The Man of Bronze** is a period piece, set in the 1930's. Cinemaphotographer Fred Koenekamp, who shot **Papillon** and **Patton,** made a special effort to showcase the cars, planes, art deco architecture and sets.

Transferring Doc's pulp exploits to the big-screen had its problems, making changes in the plot necessary. The storyline unfolds as Doc, working under a forty-eight star flag near his Fortress of Solitude, is engaged in a series of unusual and intriguing experiments. His concentration is broken when he receives a telepathic message from his New York base of operations— a warning sent by his aides, that something is wrong. At once, he abandons his research and travels by snowmobile and plane back to America.

Joining his associates, Monk, Ham, Renny, Long Tom and Johnny in his New York penthouse, Doc learns that his father, Professor Clark Savage Sr. has died of a rare tropical disease in the small South American country of Hidalgo. Doc suspects, however, that there has been foul play connected with his death.

The group departs for Hidalgo in Doc's plane, unaware that their nemesis, the evil Captain Seas, (Paul G. Wexler), is docked in the Hidalgo harbor aboard his yacht. Seas is the man behind the plot to kill Doc, aided by some of the world's most evil criminals and surrounded by a cluster of beautiful women.

Upon learning that a strange lost tribe has willed his father some mysterious land, Doc investigates at the local land office of Don Rubio Gorro. In a whirlwind of blazing action, a series of attempts are made on Doc's life after he discovers that the papers concerning his inheritance are missing.

Doc gets unexpected help from Gorro's beautiful assistant, Monja (Pamela Hansley), who grew up near the site of the lost tribe and offers to lead him on a dangerous trek through the uncharted jungle.

As they approach the area of his father's claim, Doc seperates from the group to check the setup on his own. He discovers it is the sight of a fabulous, eternally bubbling gold mine which the natives had given his father in friendship. He also finds that Captain Seas has been systematically stealing from the mine, using native slave labor to gather the gold for himself.

While Doc is away, Monja and the "Amazing Five" are captured and made prisoners in a huge cave where Captain Seas plans to infect them with the deadly virus he used to kill Savage Sr.

Returning, Doc discovers their capture and tracks them to Seas hideout. In the ensuing battle, he frees his aides and sets out to wreak vengeance on the criminals for his father's death. Meanwhile, the Captain's men attempt to gather all the gold they can carry and escape, only to be caught in an underground explosion triggered by dynamite that covers them with liquid gold, turning them into grotesque glittering statues of death.

Grateful that his village has been freed, the chief of the enslaved indians gives the gold land to Doc so that he may use it to finance his relentless battle against evil. He returns to his New York Rehabilitation Center with Captain Seas in tow, and performs a special type of acupuncture brain surgery on the villain to remove all traces of evil from the criminal's mind, appropriately turning Seas into a Salvation Army band leader.

Returning to his penthouse apartment, Doc prepares to close the book on the bizarre case only to receive another urgent call for help to combat a new evil. Roaring off into a vermillion sunset, Doc is once again in his element, questing the world over to make it a just and good place in which to live (plus leaving the door open for a sequel).

Doc Savage . . . Man of Bronze reintroduces the American public to a kind of hero they haven't seen for a long while—the good, clean, and virtuous hero of the pulps. When asked how he thought his experiment in the pulp field would go over, Pal optimistically replied, "With luck, its possible we will film all 181 stories!"

Look for more coverage on the filming of Doc Savage in future issues of **MEDIASCENE.**●

Columbia Pictures' **The Golden Voyage of Sinbad** has established itself as a solid holiday favorite in the metropolitan New York area, bringing in an extraordinary strong $833,000 in the first ten days of its deluxe premier showcase.

Ray Harryhausen co-produced the spectacular film and created the special visual effects depicting Sinbad's encounters with bizarre creatures of legend and mythology. Gordon Hessler directed from Brian Clemen's screenplay.

The story of Sinbad, the most fanciful and romantic of the Arabian Night's tales, required many months of filming and technical work to encompass its dazzling sweep of events. In **Golden Voyage**, the wandering hero tangles with a number of creatures, including a one-eyed Centaur, a tribe of primitive green men, a mobile six-armed statue, a griffin, a siren sprung to life from a ship's figurehead and a

sinbad saga sets sail

vicious homunculus, all in an effort to restore a kingdom to its rightful leader, despite the opposition of a villainous sorcerer.

Produced by Columbia Pictures, **The Golden Voyage of Sinbad** will go into general release this month. If the show does as well all over the country as it did in New York, plans will proceed for the production of Harryhausen's next project, an adaptation of H. G. Wells' **Island**

of Dr. Moreau.

Also from Columbia in the next few months will be the John Woolf production of **The Odessa File**, based on the worldwide best-selling novel by Frederick Forsyth. This is the suspenseful tale of a free-lance reporter's daring investigation and pursuit of a modern-day organization which protects the identities and serves to advance the destinies of former members of the S.S. in and out of Germany. Maximillian Schell and Mary Tamm play key

voight stars in odessa file

roles in the Ronald Neame directed film shot on location in Munich and Hamburg, and starring Jon Voight as the harassed and tenacious reporter.

Late this year and early in 1975, Columbia pictures will release a number of notable films currently in production: **The First Deadly Sin**, based on the best-selling novel by Lawrence Sanders, scheduled to be directed by Don Siegel of **Dirty Harry** and **Invasion of the Body Snatchers** fame, filmed in New York this summer with Stephen Geller doing the screenplay; **Close Encounter of the Third Kind**, dealing with unidentified objects, directed by Steve Spielberg and written by Paul Schrader as a counter to **The Chariots of the Gods; The Front**, dealing with Hollywood during the blacklist era, with Martin Ritt (**Hud** and **Hombre**) directing and Woody Allen scheduled to star; **Jane**, based on the best-selling novel by Dee Wells, a contemporary story about an American girl in London, produced by Joe Janni; **Snowbound**, based on the novel by Bill Pronzini, who is now writing the screenplay, Peter Yates of **Bullitt** fame is signed as director; and **Taxi Driver**, with Mike Scorcese (**Mean Streets**) to direct and Robert DiNero to star, filming scheduled to start this summer in New York.

The Exorcist continues to be the biggest hit in the country and appears to be well on its way to becoming the top-grossing film of all time, even though it failed to win the coveted Best Picture Oscar this year. Director William Friedkin thinks the film lost because of the rather reserved and reactionary content of the voting Academy: "most voters are over 60 and were put off by the graphics of the show."

Despite the failure of the original to win an Oscar this year, **Exorcist** imitations have sprung up with predictable speed. One of the newest is **The Reincarnation of Peter Proud**, a suspense film based on Max Erlich's novel of demoniac horror, starring Jennifer O'Neill and Michael Sarrazan. The movie is being filmed by Bing Crosby Productions with a Bantam Paperback tie-in slated for this summer.

The Dybbuk, the tale of a young girl possessed by the spirit of a vindictive bridegroom is also underway and will be produced by Leon Merril and Jack Harris, the team who originally brought you **The Blob.**

Futureworld, the heir and successor to **Westworld**, is beginning its pre-production phases at MGM with Paula Prentiss in a starring role. Futureworld itself is an extension of the Delos amusement park previously seen in **Westworld**, only its theme is that of the ultratechnological future rather than the antiquated past. Among the expensive and lavish sets being designed are ultramodern casinos, restaurants and bordellos, peopled with unearthly and beautiful inhabitants.

For the exciting but harmless dangers that the ultimate vacationland is to supply, flashfloods of acid, plastic rainfall and exotic beasts are being created. As in **Westworld**, Michael Crichton will be directing, but this time around there will be an adequate budget with which to work.

Amicus Productions is rapidly becoming Hammer's closest rival in the booming horror film market, and already has three new films ready for distribution.

The first of the films will be **Madhouse**, formerly **The Revenge of Dr. Death**, starring Vincent Price, Peter Cushing, Robert Quarry and Linda Hayden. Price stars as the predictibly bitter old horror actor returning to the scene of his great-

price released in madhouse

est theatrical triumphs, and, after a series of bizarre deaths, manages to get the police on his trail.

Next look for **Tales From The Grave**, a series of short stories, connected by an old junk shop proprietor, based on stories from **The Unbidden** by R. Chetwynd-Hayes. All the tales are supernatural in nature

and will star Donald Pleasance, Nyree Dawn Porter and Diana Dors.

Last in the Amicus schedule comes **The Beast Must Die**, based on a James Blish story about werewolves. In the film, hunter Tom Newcliffe has grown bored after bagging every other dangerous game in the world, so he sets his sights on the last and most dangerous quarry—a werewolf. Armed to the teeth with machine-guns full of silver bullets, infra-red TV scanners and helicopters, Newcliffe stalks his prey in a variety of settings, all populated by such stars as Peter Cushing, Calvin Lockhart and Anton Diffring.

There are several cheapie horror films currently on the market that are worth seeing for their nolstalgic view of greats from the past. In **Terror in the Wax Museum**, such stalwarts as Elsa Lanchester, Ray Milland, Broderick Crawford, John Carradine, Louis Hayward, Maurice Evans and Patrick Knowles are involved in a number of unexplained killings around a wax museum (tricky, eh?).

Another of the quickie flicks is **Doctor Death, Seeker of Souls.** Basically another formula feature, it stars John Considine in a campy farce about reincarnation.

Francis Ford Coppola, the director of **The Godfather**, has a new film currently going into general release titled **The Conversation.** It's the brutal tale of a professional surveillance man, played by Gene Hackman, who suddenly acquires a conscience and decides to try to right some of the wrongs he has done.

It appears as though bigger and better disasters are coming from Universal Pictures, who had terrific boxoffice success with **The Poseidon Adventure.** The first of the newcomers will be **Earthquake**, as reported in last issue's Media News, and will feature a new process called "sensurround," a system of quadrophonic speakers that will emit a high-pitched, ultrasonic soundwave during key disaster scenes. The net result is "like being inside a subway tunnel close to a train that goes roaring by at 60 miles per hour." The process is quite harmless however, say Universal technicians. Charleton Heston, Lorne Green and Richard Roundtree will star in this exciting film directed by Jennings Lang.

The second of the Universal spectacles will be the Robert Wise directed **Hindenberg**. Wise, whose experience ranges from directing such films as **The Curse of the Cat People** to **The Andromeda Strain** to **The Sound of Music** as well as editing the likes of **Citizen Kane**, will have a new process put at his disposal if Universal technicians can perfect the system with which they plan to make flames leap from the screen while intercutting newsreel footage of the original dirigible disaster. There is also some sort of "Smellovision" process underway, all combining to give Wise the power to involve his audience more completely than has ever before been possible in motion picture history.

Dubbed as "the first Kung Fu Western," **Blood Money** has begun production under the guidance of New York Harbor Productions and the Shaw Brothers of Hong Kong. The film will star Lee Van Cleef and Chen Kuan-tai, and will be pro-

duced by Carlo Ponti with direction by Anthony Dawson. The plotline features the gunslinger and the Kung Fu expert joining forces to track down hidden treasure.

John Wayne, whose performance as the eyepatched gunfighter of **True Grit** won him an Oscar as best actor, will repeat the role in **Rooster Cogburn**, to be produced by Hal B. Wallis for Universal Pictures.

Christopher Lee, who has portrayed such unsavory screen characters as Count Dracula, Frankenstein's Monster, Rasputin and Fu Manchu, has been signed for the role of Scaramanga in the next James Bond thriller, **The Man With The Golden Gun**, to be released by United Artists. Producers Albert R. Broccoli and Harry Saltzman, along with director Guy Hamilton began shooting the latest of the super-spy thrillers in Thailand.

Though no longer connected with the Bond films, director Terrance Young, who did **Dr. No, From Russia**

With Love and **Thunderball**, has been pursuing a successful career on his own. Young recently finished lensing **The Klansmen**, a film dealing with racial tension and the KKK, starring Richard Burton and Lee Marvin, and will soon be starting work on an oriental film. Titled **Assassins**, the film will deal with a murderous secret society and is the first of five films he has contracted for the next few years.

AmeriEuro Productions is stepping up production this year, presenting three entries in the gang-

crime capers coming

ster field. The first film will star Tony Curtis, Anjanette Comer and Milton Berle in **Lepke**. Next Jack Palance and Carol Lynley star in **The Four Aces**, and finally, the uncast **Hit The Dutchman**. These three films will probably establish AmeriEuro as a major filmmaking concern, providing of course, they make money.

Titanus Productions will be adding a new film version of **Zorro** to their production schedules for next year. The film will star Alain Delon with Duccio Tessari directing on location in Italy.

William Holden and Robert Wagner have been signed to the all-star cast of Irwin Allen's production of **The Towering Inferno**, the multimillion dollar drama of the world's tallest skyscraper that catches fire on the eve of its dedication from Warner-20 Century.

Joining a cast that already includes Steve McQueen, Paul Newman and Fred Astaire, Holden portrays the world-renowned builder

of the skyscraper. Wagner will play the part of the public relations chief of an immense construction firm.

John Guillerman, whose previous work includes **The Blue Max**, is slated to direct **The Towering Inferno**, with producer Irwin Allen (**The Poseidon Adventure**) handling the action sequences.

Magna I — Beyond the Barrier Reef, an original science-fiction adventure story by Jack DeWitt, will be the first in a series of independently financed films to be made by Sandy Howard Productions and released by 20th Century-Fox. The film will feature an all-star cast and will go into production late this year under the direction of William A. Graham.

Ever wonder what happened to the Hollywood that produced films like **Robin Hood, Gunga Din** and **The Mark of Zorro**—films that had action, adventure, romance, humor and drama? We have—and we've missed it! Just when we'd almost

musketeers top 74 entertaiment

given up hope, **The Three Musketeers** came along!!

Directed by Richard Lester, who also directed **Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum, Help!** and **Hard Day's Night, The Three Musketeers** is a tour de force of swashbuckling action and pratfalls, as well as a magnificent and multi-faceted piece of dramatic entertainment. Michael York has the leading role of D'Artagnan, whose sword-

play becomes the focus for shifting intrigue. The musketeers, played by Oliver Reed, Frank Finlay and Richard Chamberlain, are likeable rogues capable of stealing chickens and starting brawls in addition to their more gallant exploits.

The villainy is provided by Charleton Heston as the malevolent Cardinal Richelieu, with Christopher Lee as his one-eyed henchman. Raquel Welch provides comedic love interest to D'Artagnan's bumbling efforts.

The screenplay by George MacDonald Fraser, who scribed the famous **Flashman** series, remains relatively faithful to the Dumas' classic. Lester characteristically inserts fleeting moments of pathos into the generally raucous proceedings. Highlighted by Michael Legrand's thundering score, and David Watkin's photography, **The Three Musketeers** is the high adventure film of the year. It's sequel has already been filmed with a release date tentatively set for the Easter season of 1975. After both parts have played around the country, 20th will undoubtedly put them together for a special extravaganza that is truly one of a kind.

Call it nostalgia or call it a small audience's appetite for quality, the recent "classic film-music re-recordings" have been doing quite well. Reissuing the old scores to such films as **Casablanca, The Sea Hawk, Gone With The Wind** and a large group of MGM musicals is proving to be a successful sales package, even though most of the films are over 30 years old and only appear on the late show. Once again, the broad, sweeping scores of such composers as Max Steiner, Miklos

Rosza, Erich Wolfgang Korngold and Alfred Newman are available, all from an age when movies were movies and the music was enjoyable in its own right.

Making the transition from the big screen to the small is proving to be more than a little difficult for the **Planet of the Apes** property. Somewhere along the way, during the frantic rush to provide scripts for fall shooting, someone decided that it wouldn't be too much trouble to adapt old **Rawhide** TV scripts. Why, just look what **Rawhide** did for Clint Eastwood. Now if Roddy MacDowell could only arrange to be the next "Man With No Name," he'd have it made.

ABC television is seriously looking at new sci-fi series, following up on the success of their **Six Million Dollar Man.** One of the leading contenders in the race will be **Space 1999**, reported a while back in **COMIXSCENE**, starring Barbara Bain and Martin Landau. The series, produced by Sir Lew Grade, was originally to be offered to the various independent TV stations around the country, but its production costs of over $250,000 per episode, primarily for the special fx, induced Grade to go to the networks with it. ABC may buy the series for the upcoming season, dependent largely on the response of the public to Gene Roddenberry's remake of **Genesis II**, titled **Planet Earth.**

Some of the new low-crime, low-violence and low-interest Saturday morning TV shows have been announced for next fall, and a duller package would be hard to find. The new entries will include: **The Chopper Bunch**, a take-off of the live show that never did; **Kung Phooey**, the title explaining the series; **The Partridge Family 2300 A. D.**, the turkey of the future; **The Valley of the Dinosaurs**, or guess who minded

sat kid sched set for sept

Walton's Mountain a million years ago; **The U.S. of Archie** and **Shazam**, that's a genie, not the Captain Marvel byword.

Marvel and National Comics have both got a few irons in the fire concerning their comic-book character on the boob-tube, but final plans are not ready for revelation yet. No doubt, with the current trends and anti-everything crusades, Spidey will swoop about town thwipping pieces of litter off the

streets, Conan will be learning how to spell Crom, and Dracula, Frankenstein and the Wolfman will be living together (nothing funny mind you), and singing inane songs with a kid and his magic dog for helpers.

Doug Trumbull's newly formed Cumulis productions has been working on a TV presentation of **The War of the Worlds** for release in fall of '74 or early '75. The sets and props will be supervised by Trumbull, whose special effects

welles worlds wages war

work on **2001: A Space Odyssey** and **Silent Running** are world renown. Final arrangements are currently being made on the **War of the Worlds** property, and full details will be available in **MEDIASCENE** as soon as they are settled.

Harlan Ellison will be returning with another new TV show soon, titled **Brillo**, a pilot for another possible series. It will be presented as a movie of the week show and will hopefully be picked up as an alternating regular, like **Columbo.** The basic idea revolves about a robot police force of the future, and the show's title is derived from the Brillo soap pad which is made out of — get ready — Steel Fuzz.●

THE HISTORY OF COMICS 1 AND 2

The SMASH BEST-SELLER OF 1972 IS HERE! The comics' most controversial artist has written the second volume of his fabulous HISTORY OF COMICS series. After two years of preparation, STERANKO has produced another compelling 100,000 word epic packed with the facts, figures, failures, and favorites of the Golden Age of Comics. Between its covers, the definitive analysis of Captain Marvel, The Marvel Family, Blackhawk, Airboy, The Heap, The Flying Heroes, Plastic Man, the Fawcett and Quality characters, The Spirit and hundreds more. Volume 2 is 10½" x 14" - 132 pages, 457 illustrations, full-color wraparound cover featuring 50 super heroes. Mailed in a specially-illustrated manila envelope. $6.00 plus .40 postage and handling.

STILL AVAILABLE – VOLUME 1 – the first book of the series, featuring The Great Newspaper Strips, The Fantastic Pulps, Superman, Batman, Captain America, Sub-Mariner, Human Torch, National and Timely heroes, Kid Gangs of the 40's, and much more. 84 pages, 281 illustrations, full-color wraparound cover featuring 50 super heroes. $4.00 plus .25 postage and handling.

A limited supply of BLACK LIGHT POSTERS of the cover of Volume 2 (in a giant 14" x 21" size without type) are available on heavy paper for $1.50 plus .50 postage and handling. Full-color Volume 1 poster is also available at the same price.

NOW ON SALE!

ACCLAIMED AS THE DEFINITIVE SERIES ON THE LIFE AND TIMES OF THE COMIC BOOK!

COLLECT 'EM! COLOR 'EM! COPY 'EM!

A CYCLOPEDIC COMPENDIUM OF COURAGEOUS COMIC CAVALIERS AND CURIOUS COLOSSAL CLASSICS!

Here at last, the books you've demanded we publish – Three SUPERGRAPHICS volumes that tell all you need to know about the fabulous super heroes of the Golden Age!

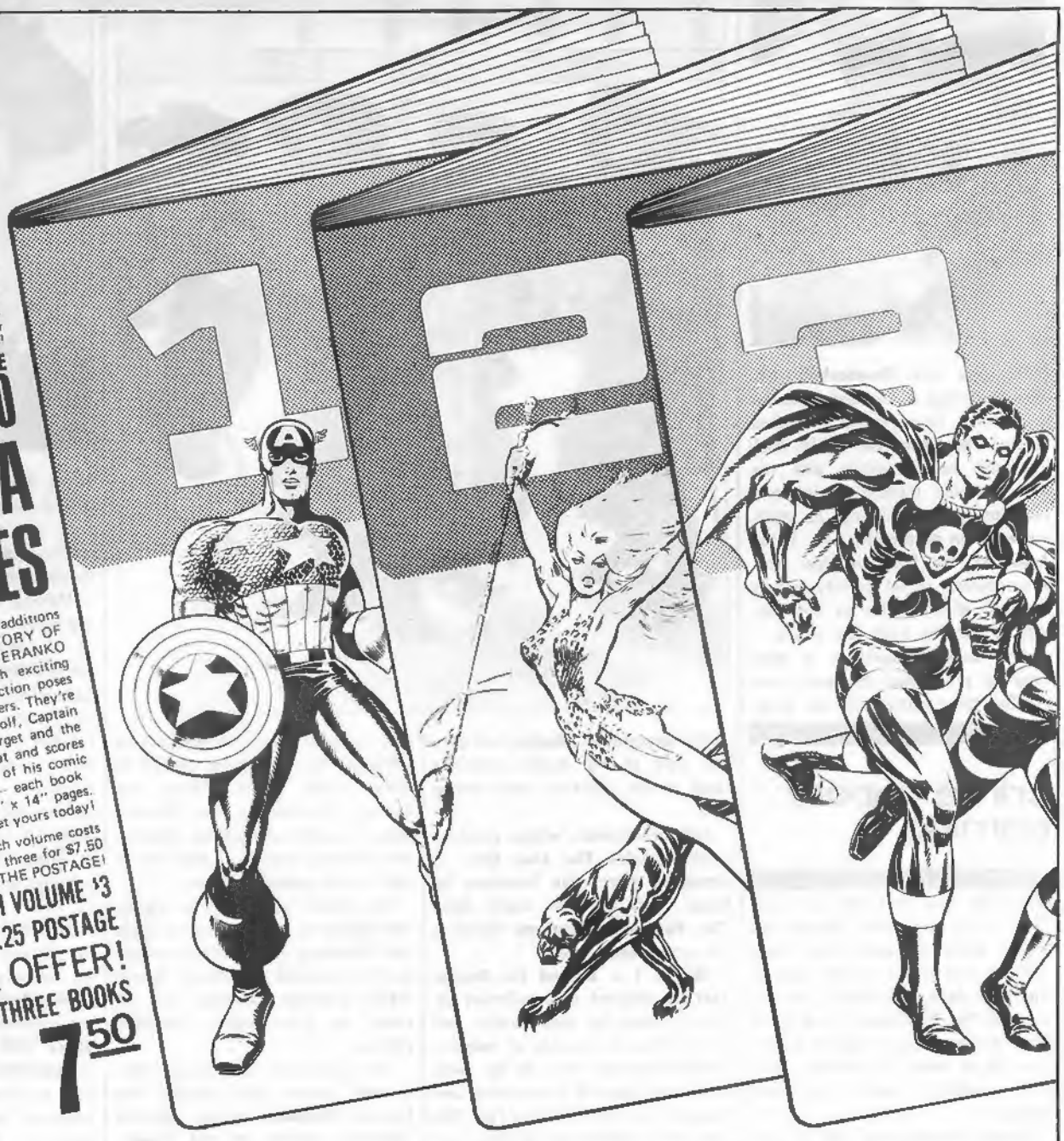
THE steranko ENCYCLOPEDIA Of SUPER HEROES

Now, a fun-tastic three-volume set of books that will be super-additions to your comic collection! You've read about them in the HISTORY OF COMICS, now see them in giant super-size pin-ups drawn by STERANKO especially for this triple comic hero package. Each exciting volume showcases fifty fabulous heroes and heroines in original action poses designed to reveal the most about their costumes and powers. They're all here: The Black Terror, Iron Jaw, Sky Wolf, Captain Midnight, The Face, Blue Beetle, The Comet, Spacehawk, Target and the Targeteers, Phantom Lady, The Fin, The Black Cat and the more. Every character is accompanied by a detailed description of his comic career. Never before has such a trilogy been offered – each book features 50 dynamic heroes on 50 big 10½" x 14" pages. Get yours today!

Take advantage of our special offer. Separately each volume costs $3.00 plus .25 postage. Buy all three for $7.50 you SAVE $1.50 and WE PAY THE POSTAGE!

EACH VOLUME $3 PLUS .25 POSTAGE

SPECIAL OFFER! ALL THREE BOOKS 7.50



STILL IN PRODUCTION

IF YOU LIKE COMICS,
IF YOU LIKE PIN-UPS,
YOU'LL LOVE—
THE SUPERGIRLS!

LOOK OUT! THE SUPERGIRLS ARE HERE!

They're here—in the classic cheesecake tradition of the fabulous 40's—a deadly dozen demure but devilish damsels, yours in a sumptuous, new pin-up portfolio from SUPERGRAPHICS! This is it—the package you've been waiting for—a super pin-up calendar featuring TWELVE of the most torrid and terrific temptresses you've ever seen! We've named them THE SUPERGIRLS because they're super-sweet, super-sleek and super-sophisticated! Imagine them on your wall, twelve tantilizing tigeresses—each dressed (in a manner of speaking) in her own hauntingly familiar garb! SUPERGIRLS in Super-costumes that reveal the most seductive and shapely super-structures this side of Raquel Welch! SUPERGIRLS in super-colors—every month a super-spectrum of brilliant color: Phantom Purple, Arrow Green, Bat Blue and more! You have to see 'em to believe 'em, a dozen dazzling dames in a riotous rainbow of harmonious hues! GIRLS, GIRLS, GIRLS—in the most exciting comics calendar ever offered—all drawn with tender loving care by STERANKO who spared no effort in his relentless and exhausting research on the subject! These lovelies are not for the faint-hearted! They are SUPERGIRLS—not censored by the Comics Code—daringly displaying their scandalous specialties and spectacular super-powers just for you! Oh, before we forget, each page features a monthly calendar to help you keep track of your dates! A full year's worth of eye-stopping beauty! THE SUPERGIRLS—the sexiest sampling of spellbinding sirens ever published—guaranteed to be the hottest collector's items of the decade, the first in a fabulous new series! So bewitching, you'll want to order two, one for each eye! Order now—while they last!! THE SUPERGIRLS PIN-UP CALENDAR is a giant 10½" x 18" in size and comes mailed in a plain brown tube!!

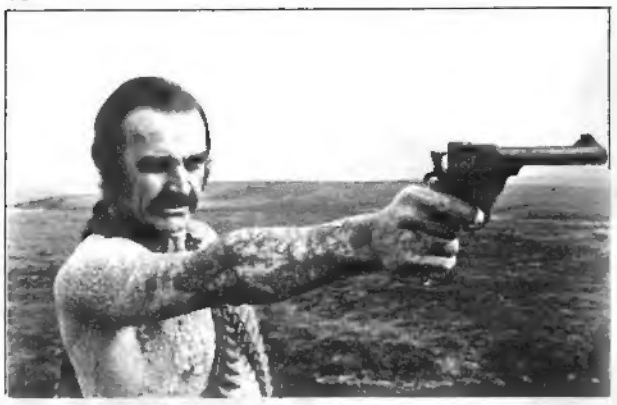
Send to:
SUPERGRAPHICS/BOX 445/WYOMISSING, PA./19610
Please send me ____ copies of the SUPERGIRLS CALENDAR.
I enclose $3.50 plus .50 postage and handling for each calendar.

name

address

city/state zip

Canadian and foreign orders include additional .25 postage



"The trouble with eternity," John Boorman revealed, "is that it goes on for so long. We would all be longing for a good death!"

Death and eternity are the two elements around which Boorman has created his new film, **Zardoz.** Like his previous films, **Point Blank, Hell in the Pacific** and **Deliverance,** Boorman chooses to frame his story on the aspect of survival—this time several hundred years in the future.

Sean Connery, no stranger to the survival school of storytelling, plays the lead role in the most important science fiction film since **2001: A Space Odyssey** and **Clockwork Orange.** Besides being a visual **tour de force** of electrifing power, **Zardoz** grapples with the metaphysics of immortality and death, science and civilized peace, and even God.

The film focuses on a future society composed of an intellectual elite which has sealed itself off from the contaminations of a doomed and dying world. A self-sustaining commune founded by top scientists and intellectuals, they are dedicated to learning and an ultra-civilized life style. They call themselves the Vortex and have harnessed advanced technology to create a protective gravitational force field against the outside world.

The Vortex has existed for three hundred years since its inception in 1990 when our industrial society finally collapsed. Blinded by self-defined virtue, the commune's deathless Eternals have become demanding, involuted, physically and emotionally sterile. They have also become vulnerable to primal attack.

That attack comes from beyond the periphery where civilization has returned to the Dark Ages, producing mindless, helpless masses known as the Brutals. Living amid the rubble of war and pollution, they are made to produce grain for the Vortex, and are supervised by the Exterminators who keep their number down by hunting, killing. They worship the god Zardoz, a huge floating stone-like head created by the Eternals to control the savages.

Connery portrays Zed, an Exterminator whose selective breeding has given him exceptional mental and physical powers. When he discovers that Zardoz has exploited and betrayed his people, he sets out to destroy the Vortex and the remaining "civilized" world.

"If there's a moral in all this," Boorman says, "it's one for the futurologists themselves. Too often they ignore the power of evolution itself to upset the equation. Some new mutation, something we encounter on the way, some unimagined factor can change the course ahead. Science and logic are not infallibles. Paradox has a poetry of its own. For example, my Vortex people have forgotten what death is like and, as a result, life has lost its vital savor. It is a psalm to paradox, a knee bent to the cruel majesty of nature."

Released by 20th Century-Fox, Zardoz was written, produced and directed by John Boorman, who was nominated for an Academy Award as director of **Deliverance,** as well as a best picture nomination. With **Zardoz,** he has created an entertaining, innovative yet thought-provoking epic destined to become a milestone in his career. To bring our readers behind the scenes in making of **Zardoz,** we present the following interview with its director:

MEDIASCENE: John, you're a relative newcomer to the American film audience. Your most important films, **Point Blank** and **Deliverance,** have been experimental in terms of exploring violence and human survival, and have been specifically American in setting and treatment. Is there any connection to be made?

BOORMAN: Much of my filmmaking life has been spent in America and my American experience is fundamental to those and to **Zardoz.** Only in America can one glimpse the future now. For better or for worse, America is ahead of other societies. America is constantly undergoing change, and this is probably why I find living and working there so much more essential, more liberating than in Europe.

MEDIASCENE: What is your point of view in **Zardoz**—is it a look at the future from the present? Or is it a look at the destructive evolution of the past from the future?

BOORMAN: Well, its neither hindsight nor premonition, but a mixture of the two amounting to a sort of backward glance at the future—what the French call **deja vu.** The best of science-fiction has this quality. H. G. Wells was a master of it. It is also apparent in the work of Arthur Clarke, whose prime source for the space-time theory implicit in **2001** was Dunne's "An Experiment in Time."

MEDIASCENE: I understand that even before **Deliverance,** you were working on scripts and ideas concerning the King Arthur legend of the Middle Ages, "The Quest for the Holy Grail," and Tolkein's "The Lord of the Rings." Did these two projects have a stimulating effect of inducing you to explore fantasy and science-fiction in the future?

BOORMAN: They were significant, but allow me to point out that **Zardoz** is a look at the future, still firmly rooted in its past. What I have postulated in **Zardoz** is that the Machine has stopped, but by the time it stopped, non-machine technology was able to take over, permitting an elite to survive, the Vortex community. The Vortex is really like a spaceship, self-sustaining, self-regenerating, independent of the cruder machines on which we now depend but, of course, it is by definition, sterile.

MEDIASCENE: Point Blank was the study of one man against the organized forces of crime. **Deliverance** was a struggle against the forces of nature, and now **Zardoz** appears to be one man against a society. Any Comment?

BOORMAN: It is the subject of society patterns that concerns me now. After all, it's possible to see stone age societies on this planet, as it is also possible to see in America men and women attempting alternatives such as communes and group families. In **Zardoz,** the Vortex people, apparently so well equipped to find ultimate answers, become victims of their single-minded vision. My Vortex people have forgotten what death is like and, as a result, life has lost its vital savor until Zed comes along.

MEDIASCENE: There is a definite preoccupation with death in many, if not all of your films. To what is this attributable?

BOORMAN: Death is an interesting subject to me, and a recurrent one in my films. In western societies it is pushed under the carpet, yet I can think of no subject that is more unnatural to avoid. In our material world, we are sold continually on life, as though we were going to live forever, but, as my Vortex people find, life loses its meaning without death. It is something to be faced, even embraced for, as my film tries to say, it is our hope of rebirth.

MEDIASCENE: What was your opinion of Sean Connery's playing of the part of Zed?

BOORMAN: Sean knew at once what I was trying to say. He absorbed it. He personified it and played it with great sensitivity and perception. The role was actually a very complex acting creation. Zed, like Adam, is born into innocence, lives by hunting and killing, worships and fears his god, Zardoz, until it occurs to him that Zardoz is cruel and revengeful. Once he acquires this knowledge, innocence is lost; Zed destroys his god and dares to enter the realm of the gods himself.

MEDIASCENE: Is the film then an attack on religion?

BOORMAN: The film is critical of religion, or organized religion, and in an overt way it says that religion has been used to subvert and control, to keep backward peoples in subjugation, but it is also about the search for spirit, so often lost in the fabric of religion.

It concerns itself with birth, death and rebirth, and I don't think you can be irreligious about that. **Zardoz** deals with religion in terms of a clash of life-styles. On one hand you have pure reason and spirituality in the Immortals; on the other there is unpredictability, superstition and mindless violence in the Brutals. These are two aspects of the human condition at war in each of us, and isn't true religion our answer to these conflicts?

MEDIASCENE: Do you view **Zardoz** as a politically critical film, stating something important and vital?

BOORMAN: It's political in that it affirms what people are realizing today—that present systems are not working. Someone saw the film and described it as a Swiftian fantasy. That's flattering, and true in the sense that, like **Gulliver's Travels,** it draws on the past to predicate a future. My Eternals have achieved a form of Concensus Government by means of computers, and I believe that this in time will be possible, the ultimate in opinion polling if you like.

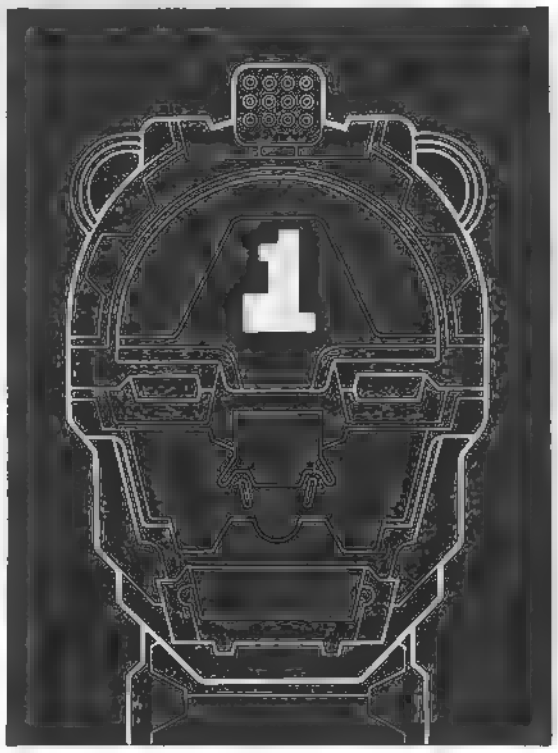
MEDIASCENE: Well, whether it is a futuristic vivision, Swiftian fantasy, modern parable or even a space-age western, **Zardoz** is a beautiful and thought-provoking motion picture.

BOORMAN: And thought, in its highest form, may be the only gift we are ever likely to make to the future.●

AVAILABLE NOW!

Once in a decade an artist like MIKE HINGE comes along who shatters the traditional approach to imaginative illustration and produces a new kind of visual wonder. Following in the footsteps of the great science fiction artists like Frank Paul, Chesley Bonestell, Virgil Finlay, Ed Emshwiller, Kelly Freas, Jack Gaughan, and Richard Powers, MIKE HINGE has added his unique style and concepts to their ranks. Striking out in bold, new directions HINGE has executed a fantastic series of drawings as beautiful as they are exciting. Assembled here for the first time in a complete book, they represent the full range of the artist's sweeping graphic approach, superb sense of design, and unusual rendering styles. Over 70 astonishing illustrations are reproduced in this giant Supergraphics-size volume (10½" x 14"), and bound beneath a unique silver and black cover representative of the men and machines inside. THE MIKE HINGE EXPERIENCE explodes with incredible, new ideas and mind-blowing graphics guaranteed to turn you on. Never before has such a sumptuous portfolio of drawings been offered. Within these pages HINGE visualizes a dynamic tomorrow of machinery and magic, spacemen, women, robots and androids--all the wonders of inner and outer space--with a touch of electronic wizardry. Expect the unexpected when you get THE MIKE HINGE EXPERIENCE.

THE MIKE HINGE EXPERIENCE



A LIMITED EDITION COLLECTORS' ITEM- WHILE THEY LAST!! $3.00 plus .25 postage and handling

A SUPERGRAPHICS PUBLICATION

FROM ACROSS THE SAVAGE CENTURIES

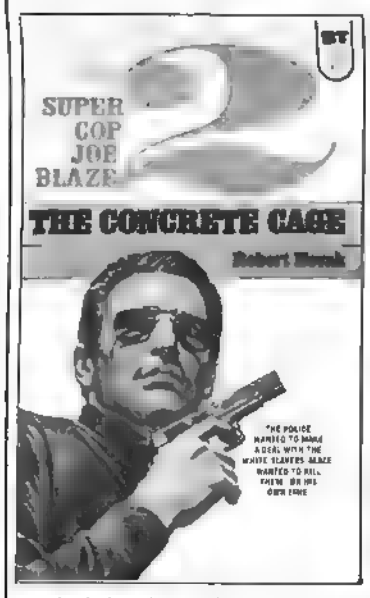
Movie and TV tie-ins continue to sell well and this month's line-up on the paperback book racks offers readers a wide selection of material. In the past year or two, both uniformed and plainclothes cops have taken the entertainment world

toma tops paberback cops

by storm, and **Toma** is no exception. Published by DELL, Dave Toma and Michael Brett have scribed the true life-story of the maverick cop whose legendary quick-change artistry has earned him a hit TV series this season. Tony Musante stars in the show's title role, while Toma himself performs in bit parts (fans make a game of identifying the real Toma).

As every Friday-night viewer knows, Toma is a master of disguise and carries his working wardrobe around in his battered unmarked car. When the situation requires a disguise, Toma can transform himself in thirty seconds into anything from a priest to a wino. His book is packed with day-by-day anecdotes of the undercover detective's beat—with all its danger, frustration and fulfillment. (We only wish Toma would have teamed up with Kojak, Serpico and Eddie "Popeye Doyle" Egan!!)

Clint Eastwood's new film, **Thunderbolt and Lightfoot,** is due soon, along with AWARD BOOKS novelization of the screenplay. Joe Millard, who scripted the "Man With No Name" paperbacks, wrote the book. Jim Robinson's **Mr. Kool,** based on the upcoming movie, is also about to be published. The film dramatizes a street gang's grim fight for



survival in the wake of a black ghetto cop's death and the killing spree that followed.

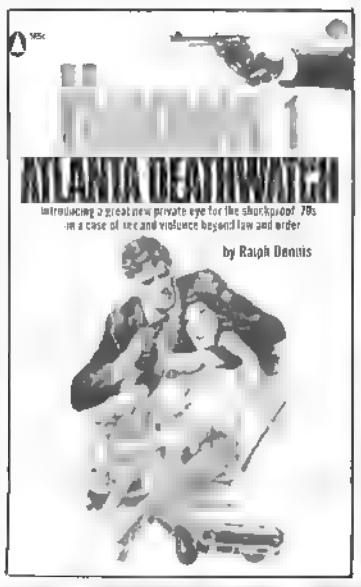
FAWCETT has just released **The Intimidators,** the fifteenth novel of the bestselling Matt Helm series. Donald Hamilton's latest thriller has the international trouble-shooter attempting to discover how and why members of the wealthy jet set are disappearing in the mysterious Bermuda Triangle.

Remember Tom Tyron, the actor who starred in **The Cardinal** and **In Harms Way**? He's turned to writing and has produced a pair of vivid, memorable chillers. His first book, **The Other,** was filmed a year or so ago; his newest has been on the **New York Times** best-seller list for five months and is about to be published in paperback by FAWCETT. **Harvest Home** is a superb mixture of suspense and horror—the kind of thing you'd expect from Hitchcock if he were writing novels.

Paramount Pictures' **The Great Gatsby** is one of the most talked about and one of the most expensive motion pictures to be produced in recent years. Film journalist Bruce Bahrenburg has gone behind the scenes to write **Filming The Great Gatsby** from its story beginnings—as Truman Capote's script is rejected and Ali McGraw wins and loses the coveted part of Daisy—to the excitement and glamor of shooting the final scene. The BERKLEY-MEDALLION edition features photos from the film and is packed with absorbing details about the production and personalities who made the $9 million film. A book for people who love movies!

"There is a tribe in Malaysia which believes Bruce Lee is still alive and his death reported on July 20, 1973 is merely a publicity stunt for a film he was working on then." So begins **The Legend of Bruce Lee** by Alex Ben Block, a book-length bio on the man **Variety** called the James Dean of the 70's.

Born in San Francisco, Lee was the son of a Chinese opera star who brought his children back to Hong Kong when Bruce was still an infant. He began appearing in local



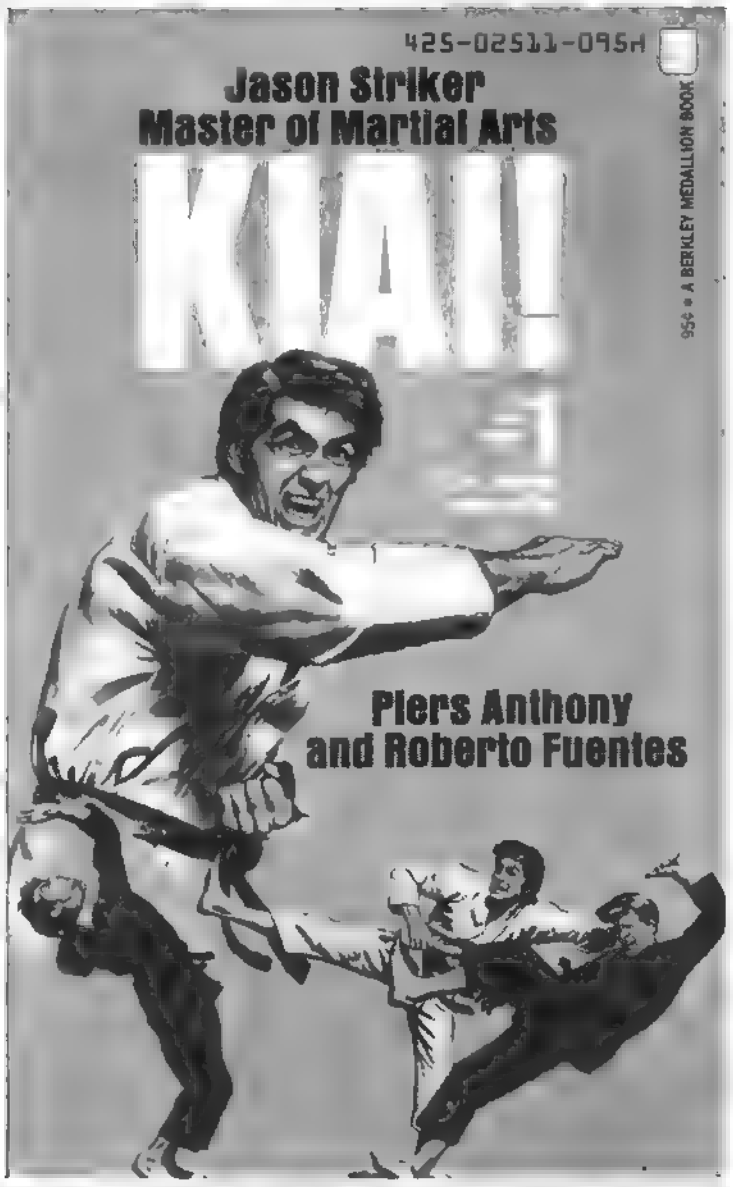
pictures at the age of three, earning himself the nickname "The Little Dragon."

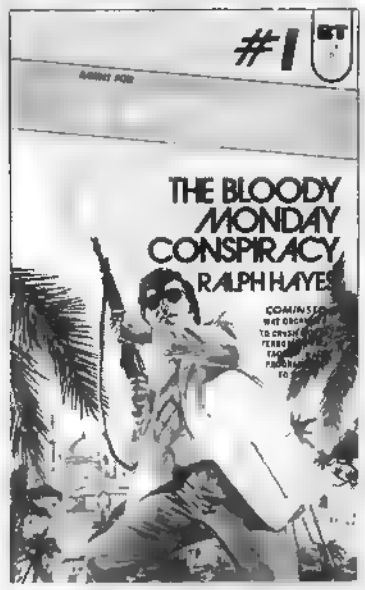
In his teens, Lee returned to the United States to study at the University of Washington. He began teaching classes in the martial arts and soon moved to Los Angeles, where he gave private lessons in Kung Fu and Karate to such stars as Lee Marvin, James Coburn and Steve McQueen.

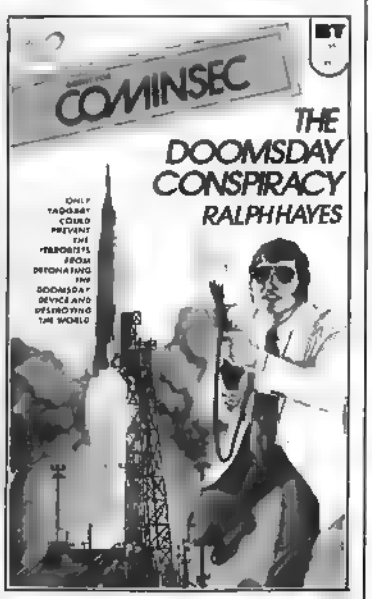
Lee played Kato in TV's **Green Hornet** series and the martial arts

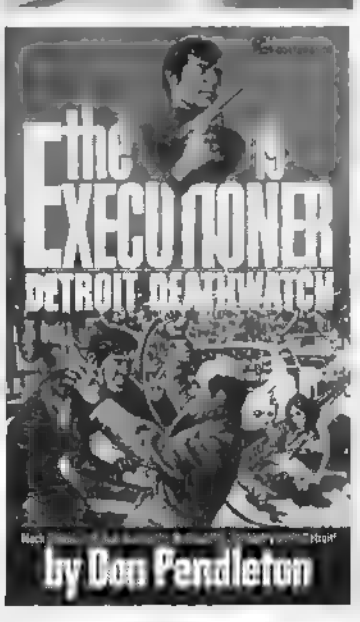
bruce lee bio big bestseller

instructor in **Longstreet,** besides Iron Fist bit parts in films like **Marlow** with James Garner. But he had to go East to find lasting recognition—and tragedy. Lee rocketed to international fame with his sensational fighting techniques in such films as **Fists of Fury, The Chinese Connection** and **Enter The Dragon.** He became the object of the hottest trend in films in years, and amassed a legion of fans until his mysterious death in Hong Kong last summer. The DELL bio tells the complete story of Lee's incredible









life and embellishes it with twelve pages of exclusive photos. A martial arts blockbuster!

More martial arts mayhem is on tap from BERKLEY-MEDALLION, in what is easily the best Karate-Kung Fu series currently being published. The first book, **Kiai!,** introduces Jason Striker, a man whose entire body is a finely honed weapon, capable of destroying the most savage and skilled antagonist. But Striker is a man of peace, not agression—until The Tournament, a fight-to-the-finish match of the

world's top champions. There were to be no rules, no fouls called, no techniques forbidden, no repercussions if men should die. That's why the Tournament had to take place outside the U.S., in the far reaches of a South American estate—where

kiai! karate klassic

the owner was his own law!

The novel, by Roberto Fuentes and Piers Anthony, reads like a textbook on martial arts techniques replete with hundreds of fascinating details and is packed from cover to cover with violent, bone-crushing plot and action. Fuentes is a Cuban exile and a former undefeated Black Belt champion whose vast experience gives the series the realism and believability others lack. The second novel, **Mistress of Death,** features a black female Kung Fu champion, and will be released this summer. (Be sure to check the next issue of **MEDIASCENE** for a special project that represents a collaboration between Fuentes as author and Steranko as artist.)

Don Pendleton, the creator of the hard-hitting Executioner series who gave us an inside look at his working methods in an exclusive interview in **MEDIASCENE** 7, has two new novels on the current bestseller charts, **Jersey Guns** and **Texas Storm.** Don tells us he's just completed the 19th Executioner episode, **Detroit Death Watch.** His new series, The Mystic, will be forthcoming as soon as he catches up on previous committments.

POPULAR LIBRARY is about to release **The Digger's Game** by George V. Higgins, the author of **The Friends of Eddie Coyle.** Soon to be a major motion picture, the tale reveals the desperate world of a small-time hood called The Digger as he fights for his life among loan sharks, gamblers and hit men.

The first two Hardman novels are slated for June release from PL

Ralph Dennis has created a new kind of private eye for the shockproof 70's—Hardman, who races along the razor line of danger with his black partner in **Atlanta Deathwatch** and **The Charleston Knife's Back in Town.**

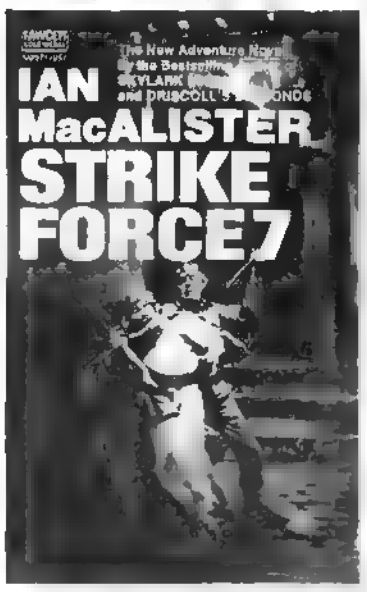
If you liked John Godey's **Taking of Pelham One Two Three,** you'll want to sample some of his earlier work. BERKLEY'S released a line-up of Godey thrillers that include **The Fifth House, This Year's Death, The Clay Assassin, The Blue Hour** and **The Gun and Mr. Smith.** More murder and mayhem abound in Mike Barry's Lone Wolf series. Latest titles include **Desert Stalker, Havana Hit** and **Chicago Slaughter.** An avalanche of ultra-violence.

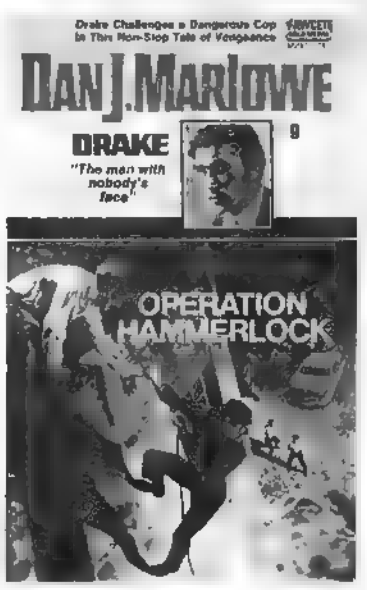
Who says crime doesn't pay? Watergate mastermind E. Howard Hunt has overwhelmed newsstands with an armful of espionage escapades in the last several months. BERKLEY has his latest, **The Berlin Ending,** first time in paperback. The man who knows what it's all about pulls no punches in perfectly paced and intricately plotted drama

of corruption and duplicity in big-time politics and international affairs.

True war adventure is on hand from BALLANTINE with the publication of **Attack on Telemark.** Written by Knut Haukelid, a member of the S.O.E. who was actually dispatched on the mission, the story follows a small group of heroic Norwegian resistance workers who attacked Vemorkan, an experimental plant where Hitler's scientists were developing the final stages of the Atom Bomb. Pure excitement from start to finish!

More high adventure may be found in Alistair MacLean's **Bear Island** from FAWCETT. The best-selling author of the **Guns of Navarone** takes us aboard a fishing trawler manned by a hated film director, his cast and crew—their destination, Bear Island, the most isolated spot in the world, bathed in Arctic darkness most of the year. Before they arrive, four people have been murdered. Then, their radio is destroyed and they discover there





is no script for the movie. Taut, intriguing reading!

Strike Force 7 is Ian MacAlister's new action-suspense thriller that brings the reader face to face with international terrorists. Jarrell, just out of a French prison, is called upon to lead a group of specialists—six men and a woman—against Arab revolutionaries in the heart of Morocco. Mission Impossible action!

Drake, the man with nobody's face, is back in **Operation Hammerlock,** the latest in Dan Marlowe's long-selling series. This time Drake is south of the border where he tangles with an unfaithful wife and a brutal Mexican cop—and suddenly finds himself behind bars. More Marlowe murder will be found in **The Vengeance Man** and **Never Live Twice**—non-Drake, but all Marlowe!

This month BELMONT-TOWER features a new series, Agent for Cominsec. The Committee for International Security was formed to combat world terrorism and Taggert was in their employ. A former Mafia hit man, he acts as a professional assassin with a hundred ways to kill. Look for two violent, searing titles by Ralph Hayes: **The Bloody Monday Conspiracy** and **The Doomsday Conspiracy.**

Magellan, The Marksman is back

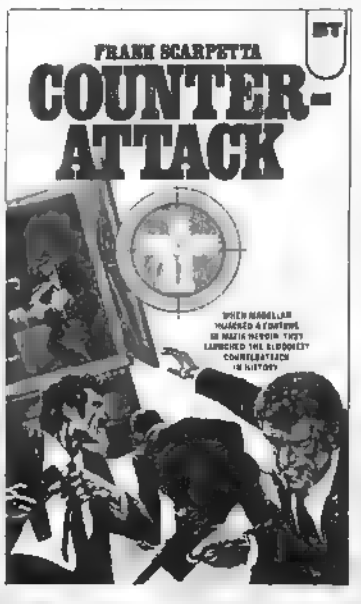
marksman fills 11th contract

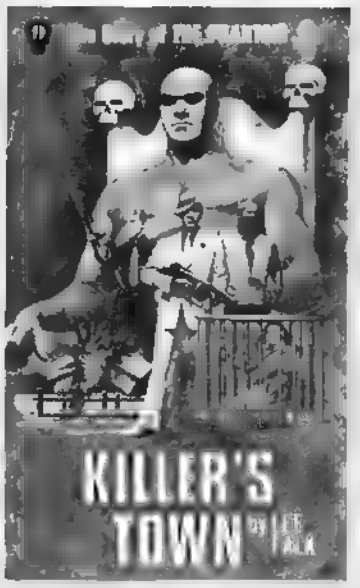
again in Frank Scarpetta's **Counter-Attack.** The Mafia swore they'd even the score when The Marksman hijacked a fortune in heroin, but found themselves trapped in the bloodbath that followed. Bruno Rossi's savage Sharpshooter faces the most brutal killer in Mafia history in the 6th gut-wrenching sizzler of the series, **Muzzle Blast.**

Joe Blaze, the rogue cop who cut a crimson path through Manhattan's underworld finds himself a victim in **The Concrete Cage.** The

police wanted to make a deal with the white slavers, but Blaze wanted to kill them—on his own time. The sexsational Lady from L.U.S.T. returns this month in **The Copulation Explosion.** Eve Drum goes ape when she finds herself up against a gorilla-man with murder in his heart. Who else could make the monkey say uncle!!

Someone dared to kidnap the son of the all-powerful Mafia chief and a price had to be paid—in gold or in blood. Bestselling author Evan Hunter has fashioned a chilling tale





of deceit and ruthless evil that spans the twin capitals of crime, New York to Sicily, in the most desperate double dealing job the underworld empire has ever attempted. Spellbinding suspense from SIGNET in **Every Little Crook and Nanny.**

Any War Will Do was the motto of the ultra-private arms trading organization Harker joined as a last resort. But when the Firm demands the life of his lover, the cornered gun-runner turns on the shadowy Senior Partner who ordered the assassination. Veteran foreign correspondent Eric Pace keeps the plot moving with his realistic, action-charged style.

If you find your appetite whetted for still more nostalgia than you've been served lately, try Alan Foster's **Goodbye, Bobby Thomson! Goodbye, John Wayne!** The novel's protagonist charts a moving and memorable course through the initiation rites of American manhood—from "making it with girls" to the ultimate farewell, of the pseudo-heroes and glories of adolescence. A story to identify with from SIGNET!

Heaven help those who cross the Inquisitor! Simon Quinn mixes the themes of violence and the occult in a bizarre new series from DELL that begins with **The Devil in Kansas** and **The Last Time I Saw Hell.**

His name is Francis Xavier Killy and he's a lay brother of the Militia Christi working for the Holy Office of the Inquisition in Rome. Unbound by vows of celibacy and the fears of common men, he's tough, agressive and a master of highly original deadly arts. Part saint, part sinner, he kills only when he must.

Those readers who've never witnessed a bizarre crime solved by fiction's Oriental master detective, Charlie Chan, will have the opportunity to remedy the situation as

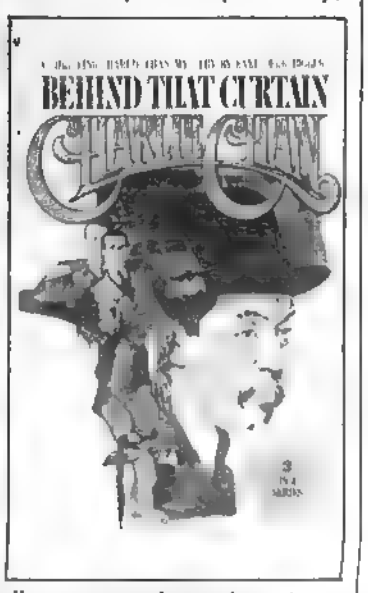
bantam chan plan lands fans

BANTAM republishes the famous Earl Derr Biggers series. The hero of the Honolulu Police, the enigmatic Chan is one of the most popular detectives in all mystery fiction. The first three delightful vintage releases include **The House Without A Key, The Chinese Parrot** and **Behind That Curtain.** Ah so!

The first book publication of Otis Adelbert Kline's fantasy classic, **Jan in India,** has just been announced from FICTIONEER BOOKS. Culled from the pages of **Argosy Magazine** in 1935, the novel is a sequel to **Jan of The Jungle** which Universal adapted into a motion picture serial. Kline was a contemporary of Burroughs, Robert E. Howard and Jack London who specialized in tales of high adventure and fantasy. A limited first edition of the book is available from the publisher at Lakemont, Georgia 30552 for $3.75 postpaid.

A different kind of action will be found in BALLANTINE's **Guide To America's Favorite Pastime—The Joy of Streaking.** Described as "the swinging man's jogging," editor George Pleasant defines the latest college craze as a form of non-verbal communication.

Not to be outdone, DELL has issued **The Altogether in The Altogether Unbelievable Streaker's Handbook.** Special chapters tell you



all you want to know about the art of streaking, such as The Etiquette of Streaking, a glossary of streaking terms, and a how-to guide for beginners.

Speaking of swingers, BALLANTINE has had illustrator Mel Greifinger create the definitive map of **Tarzan's World** and will produce it as a poster sometime in May. Released to coincide with the republication of the last twelve Tarzan novels, the huge 36" x 54" map is in blazing full-color and details

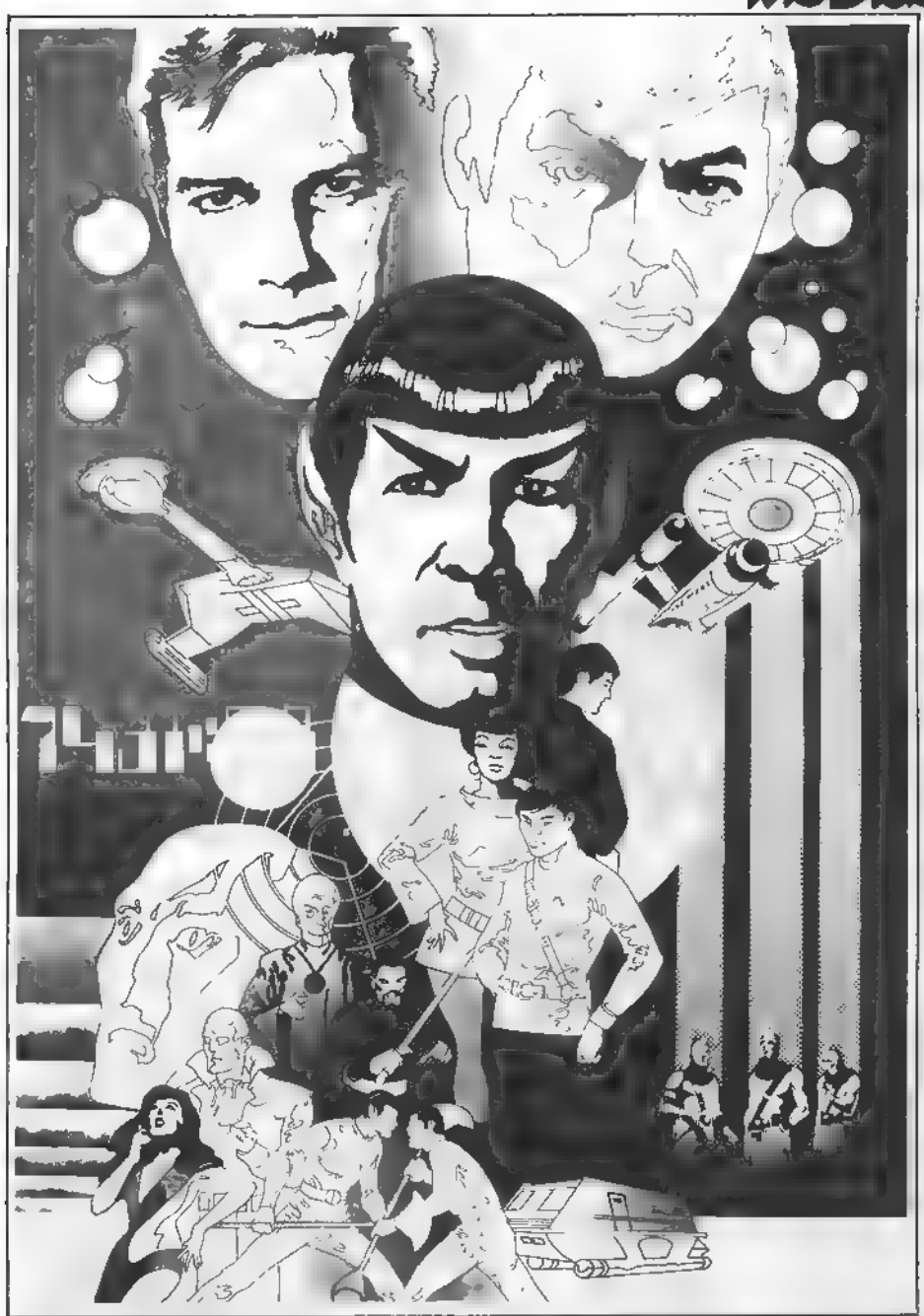
ballantine maps tarzan's africa

every location in the series from Tarzan's cabin to Opar to Pal-ul-don. Still available is the giant **John Carter poster and map** (previewed in **COMIXSCENE** 5). Both are a must for Burroughs' collectors—and a terrific gift for kids of all ages.

Faithful followers of far-out fantasy and action should pick up on AVON'S Phantom series based on Lee Falk's famous adventure comic strip. The latest, **The Vampires and the Witch,** pits the invincible crusader against a plague of human vampires and a 300-year-old witch who, legend says, can only be freed from her chains and returned to youth and beauty by a phantom kiss. A tiny nation is terrorized by these ghastly beings who inhabit a medieval torture chamber beneath an ancient castle ruin. Only the Phantom can fight through the chilling web of superstition, fear and deadly danger.

Next issue, a detailed look at Pinnacle's new bestselling violent action series—and a few special surprises! Keep your holster buttoned! ●

Preview of a special new POSTER MAP OF TARZAN'S WORLD — available from BALLANTINE BOOKS later this month.



STAR SHIP CREW POSTER

Ready for a mind-blowing trek to the reaches of the far future, to incredible universes where star kings rule, space soldiers duel to their deaths and grotesque monsters populate strange unknown worlds? Then, send your mind rocketing into a time warp of fantastic adventure and spectacular thrills alongside the **STARSHIP CREW**! At last, a poster guaranteed to engulf you its galaxy of glorious **mind-expanding color,** to take YOU, boldy, where no man has gone before — into space, **the final frontier**! Designed by Steranko, **STARSHIP CREW** is a fabulous time capsule that captures the ultimate in visual power and dynamic full color that will give your eyeballs an Andromeda strain—and promises light years of viewing pleasure. **STARSHIP CREW** thrusts you into a myriad of exciting images that will evoke the thrill of a thousand and one timeless voyages between Alpha Centuri and the infinite—an epic panorama of men, monsters, and machines who spanned the universe in their conquest of space! Send for yours today!!

A LIMITED EDITION POSTER IN FULL KINETIC COLOR A SUPER SIZED 23×32 GRAPHIC BLOCK-BUSTER YOU'LL BE PROUD TO EXHIBIT ON YOUR WALL OR IN YOUR COLLECTION!

ONLY 1.25 PLUS .25 POSTAGE AND HANDLING

TALON

Now, **TALON**, the sword and sorcery character created by Steranko, is available as a giant 23" by 32" full-color poster. Legions of comic fans have written since they first heard of him, inquiring about Steranko's dynamic barbarian hero, TALON — and in answer to those requests, we are releasing this exciting, new poster as a **limited edition item**. With all the impact of a crushing blow from a blood-drenched battle ax, the giant figure of TALON, garbed in full barbaric rainment, strides forcefully off the center of the poster, out of a fantastic world of demons, magicians and naked slave girls, right into your room. Destined to be one of our hottest-selling items, the **TALON** poster is certain to become a rare, sought-after **collector's item** in the near future. Buy two and lock one away for your old age, Don't miss the most sensational sword and sorcery character since **Conan.** Don't miss the most exciting poster buy of the year. There will never be another quite like the giant **TALON** poster. Send for yours today!! **TALON** is a poster you won't want to miss!

AVAILABLE NOW ON A GIANT FULL COLOR POSTER!! A SUPER SAVAGE SPECTACLE OF BLAZING SWORD AND SORCERY WHILE THEY LAST!

ONLY 1.25 PLUS 25 POSTAGE AND HANDLING

If sword and sorcery, heroic fantasy and barbaric adventure are your idea of a good time, then you'll want to get the SPECIAL DOUBLE ISSUE of COMIXSCENE spotlighting those themes. The most exciting issue yet, this two-part package is packed from cover to cover with the most sensational graphics and illustrations this side of Hyboria. In full and double-page spreads (some in color), you'll see some of the finest artwork ever produced by Kubert, Wood, Maroto, Kirby, Smith, Victor de la Fuentes, Jesse Santos and Steranko. All this plus a host of authoritative articles and features, profusely illustrated with rare art and reproductions not available anywhere else. Never before has such a super portfolio of sword and sorcery material been assembled — and perhaps never will be again. If you don't already have it, get your copy of this sell-out issue today — or have the curse of Crom on your head!!

marvel monkey business

The big push is on at Marvel as the number of books published rises to 92, with new titles, names and faces cropping up continuously. The greatest expansion appears to be occuring in the black and white magazines, as **Planet of the Apes** enters the schedule, along with a new Karate/Kung-Fu title, a new sword and sorcery title and a new showcase book.

There will also be a number of $1.00, 84-page black and white [redacted] books coming out this summer, with half text and half comics, as well as a giant $1.50 color comic, much like National's Giant-size Collector's Editions.

Final contract signing by the Japanese licensing firm handling the proposed **Godzilla** title has been temporarily delayed, but papers were approved for Marvel to commence work on **Planet of the Apes** for an early summer release date Mike Ploog has pencilled and inked the 25-page Ape spectacle featured in the magazine, with a story revolving about the premise of "What would the sixth movie have been like?" Filling out the book is a **Planet of the Apes** film article or two, and a George Tuska illustrated adaptation of the first movie. This is the first installment of a five or six-part adaptation, written, as is the Ploog story, by Doug Moench.

Copyright © 1974 Marvel Comics

Shifting to a monthly schedule, **The Deadly Hands of Kung-Fu** will also be represented as a special $1.00–size magazine this summer featuring one colossal story with Shang-Chi, The Sons of the Tiger and The Iron Fist. Also about the same time, Iron Fist will get his own 75 cent bi-monthly black and white magazine. Although the first figures are not in on the Kung-Fu book, speculation indicates that the market is more open for such a book than another horror title.

Apparently overwhelmingly successful, **Savage Tales Featuring Conan**, has spawned yet another black and white title, **The Savage Sword of Conan.** Kazar will be stepping in to take Conan's place in **Savage Tales** after issue 5's adaptation of a John Jakes' plot, written by Thomas and illustrated by Jim Starlin. The story will be 20 pages long and will be about some sort of mystical pollution. The backup features in the book will be a reprint of Marvel's one and only Brak story, as well as the Kazar story that was to originally go into **Savage Tales** 2, but wound up in the color comic.

Issue 6 will begin Kazar's adventures, drawn by John Buscema in a 30–page story, along with Brak and other miscellaneous projects, such as Doug Moench's caveman creation, filling out the book.

Appearing as a $1.00 size magazine, **The Savage Sword of Conan** will feature various artistic interpretations of Conan, giving most of the bullpen an opportunity to illustrate the character as they see him. The premiere issue will feature two original stories, the first being John Buscema's tale dealing with the return of Red Sonja. Then, Esteban Maroto will present a solo adventure of Red Sonja, along with a reprint of "The Frost Giant's Daughter," from **Savage Tales** 1. This issue will also mark the appearance the long-heralded "Blackmark" series by Gil Kane in a specially edited 15-page episode that encompasses about 30 pages of the paperback version

Issue 2 will spotlight a 35-page Conan story with layouts by John Buscema and finished art by one of Marvel's Philippine artists, adapting the Howard tale "Black Colossus." Another segment of Blackmark will appear as well as a Kull adventure written by Steve Englehart.

Future issues of **The Savage Sword of Conan** are in preparation, with many ideas and plans in various stages. An adaptation of Howard's interplanetary novel **Almuric** lies ahead, as well as many more adaptations of Conan tales which could not occur in the color comic for years. Neal Adams is working on cover ideas while John Buscema puts the finishing touches on a cover painting to illustrate a crucifixion scene. "Even a fella named Frazetta has been around, and the possibility of seeing a cover or three by him is very good, "says editor Thomas.

Copyright © 1974 Marvel Comics

In order to explore the magazine field and determine where the most money lies, Marvel is going to publish **Marvel Premiere,** a title that will feature as many different black and white story ideas as possible. Among the first such projects will be another stab at a **Doc Savage** strip, co-ordinated with the **Doc Savage** movie. If an agreement can be reached with George Pal, Marvel will re-package the first two issues of the color book and see if there is a place for Doc on the magazine racks.

Copyright © 1974 Marvel Comics

Also to appear in **Marvel Premiere** is the Rich Buckler-Doug Moench-Roy Thomas collaboration of "Man-gods from Outer Space," Marvel's answer to **Chariots of the Gods.**

Tony DeZuniga will be taking over the Dracula series in the black and white **Dracula Lives,** and the other Philippine artists will be similarly infiltrating the field, leaving the regular bullpen staff to handle the color titles. Meanwhile, **the Haunt of Horror** magazine will take a definite slant toward tales of Exorcism, while some of the other books attempt to utilize all original material.

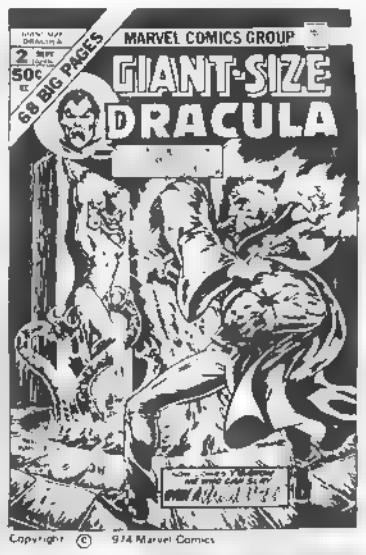
Over the Summer, in June to be exact, Marvel will present a large, 10½ X 14 inch, color, 100-page comic book. It will cost $1.50 and will feature representations of **Spiderman** from every artist who ever drew the wondrous web-slinger. Kirby, Ditko, Andru and Romita will all be featured in full-length stories, while Leiber, Buscema and the rest contribute pages exhibiting their versions. This book is purely experimental, and is a direct counter to National's $1.00 series of titles. "We only have one planned so far," revealed Roy Thomas, "and they advanced the schedule on it to June, so we aren't yet able to say if this is a workable solution to high costs."

Copyright © 1974 Marvel Comics

Copyright © 1974 Marvel Comics

Copyright © 1974 Marvel Comics

Copyright © 1974 Marvel Comics



Copyright © 1974 Marvel Comics

Copyright © 1974 Marvel Comics

The Fellowship of FOOM appears to be faltering·The Spring issue that should have been mailed March 15, is now six weeks late and not even printed yet. If and when it's mailed, the magazine will arrive two to three months late. Apparently, Marvel underestimated the work involved and unless the problems can be solved, will terminate the club.

The 50–cent **Conan** comic will spend the next year and a half adapting the novel **Conan the Conqueror.** This is the tale of Conan's great war with Thoth-Amon after he ascended to kingship. Gil Kane and Tom Sutton will illustrate while Roy Thomas scripts the series. Also featured in the book will be a story behind the story, and reprints of appearing this summer, featuring pin-ups of the Marvel characters accompanied by notes and facts concerning the characters that first appeared during that month. The distribution on this product is being handled by Simon and Schuster, as is the **Marvel Origins** book. Featuring the first appearance of Spiderman, **Marvel Origins** will also present debuts of The Fantastic Four, Thor, The Hulk and Doctor Strange, as well as a "behind the scenes" editorial by Stan Lee. The size of the book will be 7 X 10 inches and will be published in full color with cardboard covers. A special spread in **Playboy** magazine will help promote the book, while a high Christmas sale in bookstores is counted on.

conan novel serialized

[redacted] Barry Smith's very early Conan work, recolored by Smith himself.

Back in the color comics, **Conan** will begin a two-part mini-epic, based on "The Tower of Blood." Red Sonja will have a part in this one, drawn by John Buscema and written by Thomas.

Now that Marv Wolfman has cut back to concentrate on **Crazy** magazine, his comic workload is relative-

ly light. The one comic he has held onto, however, is **The Tomb of Dracula**, which he has plotted and outlined until 1984. In issues 26 and 27, Dracula begins his search for the legendary Chimera, a mythological creature that is divided into three separate parts, which when joined together, bring the beast to life. The villainous Nightmare lurks behind the scenes, trying to find all the pieces so that he can unleash the creature and destroy the world.

hulk vs oldies but baddies

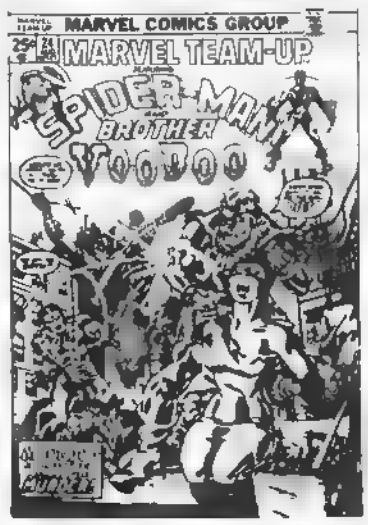
Writer Len Wein and the Hulk seem to be made for each other, as Len becomes more and more involved in the series. In issue 179 of Ol' Greenskin's mag, The Missing Link pops up, followed by the Wendigo in 180 and The Wolverine in 181. Issue 182 features a takeoff of the movie **The Defiant Ones**, in which a black man and a white, named Hammer and Anvil, are chained together with outer space metal that gives them super-powers. Once he has resolved that situation, Len plans to begin tales which will bring back Zzax, the Devastator and the Gremlin.

Moving on to the **Defenders Giant 2**, the pistachio pigmented protagonist is featured in a tale titled "H . . . As in Hulk-Hell-Holocaust" illustrated by Gil Kane and Klaus Janson

In the regular **Defenders** book, issue 16 will deal with Alpha, the ultimate mutant, and his efforts to steal the United Nations building. Issue 17 guest-stars Luke Cage while the Hulk quits and the Valkyrie goes to find her past as the Wrecking Crew run rampant throughout the world. The Hulk returns to the fold, in issue 18, properly ashamed at himself for leaving his friends, while the prospects of the Sub-Mariner's return are apparent.

Marvel Team-up is another title that Len keeps hopping with new and unusual combinations to delight the heart of Marvel readers. Upcoming pairs in the next few issues will include Spidey and Daredevil against The Unholy Three, The Torch and Thor against the Lava Men, and Spidey and the Hulk, intercutting between **Defenders** 17 and 18. After that, plans are not definitely set, but Len hopes to arrange encounters between Spidey and Nighthawk, The Torch and Subby and finally Spidey and Yellowjacket.

In the **Giant Spiderman** comic, the intrepid web-spinner will enter a battle at the side of Shang-Chi in a story illoed by Ross Andru and Al Milgrom, and written by Len Wein, who plans to have Captain America and The Falcon, Dr. Doom and the Silver Surfer in on this book before he gets much older.



Doug will be assuming the writing responsibilities on quite a number of new books, devoting himself to this phase of comics, rather than the editorial side. In issue 12 of **The Frankenstein Monster**, Doug will script a Val Mayerik illustrated tale in which the Monster, mortally wounded by Vincent Frankenstein, falls into the icy sea and is frozen. Much time passes, until in 1973, an oil tanker rams his iceberg and frees him, dovetailing the color adventures into the stories appearing in the black and white series. Who says this isn't the Marvel age of original ideas?

Copyright © 1974 Marvel Comics

Meanwhile, the **Werewolf** book will soon be overcrowded with lycanthropic protagonists as, in issue 21, three werewolves, Hackett, Coker and Russell meet to tear each other apart in a steel mill. Needless to say, one of them is cured, while another falls into a cauldron of molten metal.

Thor, and his new artist Rich Buckler, are going to be treading old ground once again as they journey "In Search of . . . Ego!" Written by Gerry Conway, the Asgardian hammer-thrower will be spending the first part of this two-part series, walking across Ego's surface, with the second part, in issue 228, resolving whatever problem it was that was bugging him.

Returning to the past seems to be Gerry's forte these days, so Spider-Man will be battling a new Green Goblin in issue 136. In fact the title of the tale is "The Green Goblin Lives Again," and the whole thing gets off to a tremendous start when a bomb goes off in Peter Parker's room, nearly killing Pete and Mary Jane.

Another Conway opus coming up will be the "150th Anniversary Issue" of the **Fantastic Four**. By happy coincidence, this will also be a wedding issue spectacular. The villain of the issue is being kept a secret, for later revelation snuffs out five of the killers and infiltrates the group, disguised in the ceremonial robe and hood they wear. A spectacular battle ensues when Shang is discovered, and he is forced to engage all seven at once.

more man-thing madness

to save her. Steve Gerber and Mike Ploog bring you this classic, ready for publication in May.

Gerber will also be teaming up with Jim Mooney in **Marvel Spotlight** 17 to string a thread of unity between old Atlantis and The Son of Satan. In the tale, SOS searches for a way to keep a cataclysm from wrecking the earth as it did Atlantis.

Finally, in **Marvel Two-in-One**, Gerber and Sal Buscema revive the Guardians of the Galaxy in new costumes, and with a new spaceship. The real stars of the strip are Captain America and The Thing, however, as they team up with the Guardians to battle against the hordes of the Badoon, not to mention the infamous Badoon Monster.

The Sub-Mariner will be taking his last bow in issue 72, as Steve Skeates and Dan Adkins tearfully recount his final soggy saga. A huge monster, formed from excessive doses of Space Radiation, is on the rampage, wreaking havoc, and generally making things tough in Atlantis. Coming to the rescue, Subby battles valiantly, winning the battle, but losing the comics sales war.

sub-mariner sunk

One of the strips that will be added to Doug Moench's schedule, will be the adventures of the Man-Wolf in **Creatures on the Loose.** Issue 31 will feature a George Tuska illustrated tale in which John Jameson visits his father after being wounded by Stroud. JJJ patches him up and just when

things look better, John sees the shattered picture of his fiance on the wall, realizes the danger he brings into her life, and decides to leave her when the police arrive on the scene, and arrest John for his connection with the strange happenings in the neighborhood. Then, changing into the Man-Wolf, John sends the police car he is in careening out of control. Meanwhile, NASA officials in Florida come to the realization that John is AWOL, and go out gunning for him.

There are wedding bells ringing between the covers of **Avengers** 127, as the FF and the colorful crowd of superheroes go to attend Quicksilver's marriage. Unfortunately for the excited bridegroom, Crystal is kidnapped and all the super-guests begin to collapse mysteriously. The mad Maximus is behind it all, aided by Ultron, in a weird wedding tale to be finished in next month's **FF**.

Don Heck will soon be joining the growing list of Dracula artists, taking over the vampire's tales in the **Dracula Super Giant** 1. This is the 50-cent mag, not to be confused with the one-shot 35-cent book. Anyway, Drac becomes intrigued by the reports of many vampire murders occuring in the north of England, and he, Inspector Chelm and Kate Fraser investigate. Stumbling upon the source of the killings, they discover that the Elder Gods

DC 100 PAGES FOR ONLY 60c
the BRAVE and the BOLD
BATMAN AND The Atom
The CORPSE THAT WOULDN'T DIE
VIKING PRINCE
SPECIAL FEATURES
Copyright © 1974 National Periodical Publications Inc

are planning to re-establish their reign over the earth.

Dashing Don McGregor will be teaming up with Billy Graham on issue 11 of **Jungle Action** in the tale "Once You Slay A Dragon!" In this mini-epic, the Black Panther raids Killmonger's village in a climactic battle that has him fighting Baron Macabre, Malice, King Cadaver and a new villain, Lord Karnaj, the reigning head of Killmonger's fortress.

Then, shifting gears, Don will team up with Gene Colan and Dan Adkins to create **Amazing Adventures** 26's "Something Worth Dying For." Don will be taking Killraven and his crew to Battle Creek, Michigan to become involved in the weirdest bronc-bustin' contest ever seen, with a creature that is half-stallion and half-serpent. They will also meet Pstun-Rage the Vigiliant, who guards a secret treasure hidden in the heart of Battle Creek.

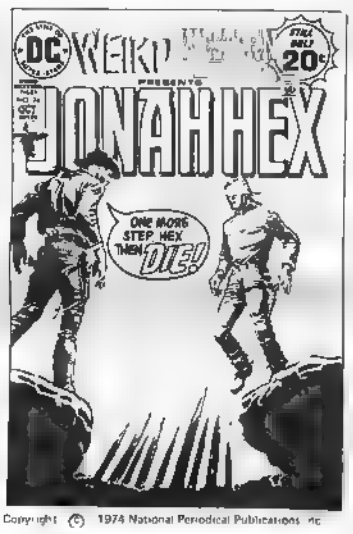
As Julie Schwartz takes over **Detective Comics**, a number of policy changes will take place. No Batman reprints will be used, and Len Wein will be handling the writing for the Batman series. Len will assume his duties by beginning a six-part series, the first episode of which is titled "Batman—Batmurderer!" This year-long epic is inaugurated as Batman kills Talia in full view on national TV.

In the next chapter, "Break-in at the Bighouse," Batman slips into the prison holding Ra's Al Ghul to question him about the killing. Once inside, Ra's admits to the killing, then pulls a gun and shoots himself. With his dying breath, Ra's puts the gun in the caped crimefighter's hand and dares him to clear himself. At this point the police enter the cell and see Batman, the dead Ra's and the smoking gun. In the third issue, we have the title "Enter the Creeper," and Len won't tell anymore cause he likes surprises.

wein mourns lost thing

Pressured by illness and overwork, Len Wein will relinquish the writing chores of National's **The Swamp Thing** with issue 13. "It was just a case where my doctor told me I had to give it up," revealed Len. "I didn't want to; it really hurt to have to do it."

Len will be closing issue 13, "The Leviathan Conspiracy," on a self-satisfying note however. Using the same words, the tale will repeat the ending of the original short story, ending Len's involvement as well. The ideas and plots revealed in past issues of **COMIXSCENE** will be used by the new writer, but only after a few issues have passed and his understanding of the character



Copyright © 1974 National Periodical Publications Inc

is complete.

As his last contribution to the stories concerning the **Justice League of America**, Len brings back Snapper Carr in "The Return of Anachronus." A permanent writer has not been set to continue the series, but Denny O'Neil is handling a few issues until one can be found.

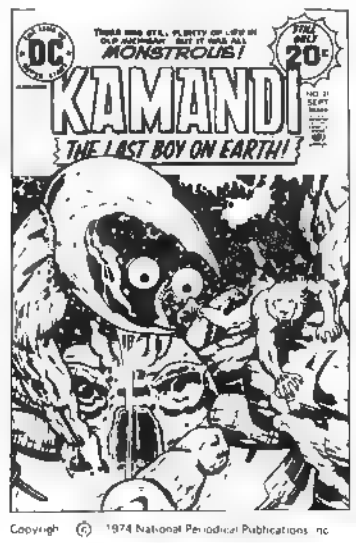
A new writer at National, named Michlane, will be taking over Wein's **Swamp Thing** chores, as well as Frank Robbins' writing for the **Unknown Soldier**. He will also be handling the scripting on the **Phantom Stranger**, and plans to team-up the Stranger with Deadman in the near future.

The first of Jack Kirby's **Losers** stories is completed presenting Na-

new kirby title ready

tional with one of the most unique war stories in years. Putting Gunner and Sarge in the spotlight, Kirby has the squad trekking across Axis territory to rescue a woman pianist. The gimmick in the story is where the Losers eventually find her.

Kamandi features another issue or two of Chicago gangster action, with the gorillas getting a bigger play. Then Kamandi journeys to the seas of the dolphins, who are



Copyright © 1974 National Periodical Publications Inc

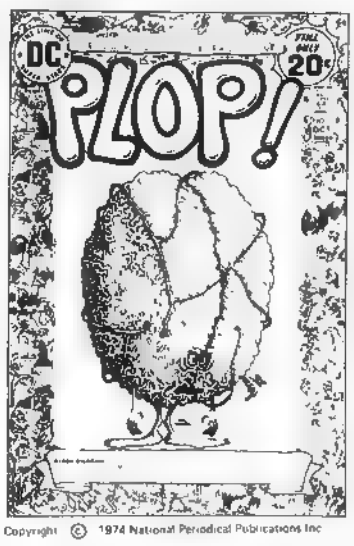
engaged in a deep and bitter war against the killer whales. Ben Boxer and his companions return to the storyline as pets to the dolphins, and eventually our heroes find their way to the land that spawned Klik-klak, the giant grasshopper of the Indianapolis adventure. It seems that there are more "devils" in a prehistoric land bounded by a radiation barrier.

Several complete issues of both the **Dingbats** and **OMAC** are awaiting a printing schedule. **OMAC** is on the summer schedule, but the **Dingbats** and **Sandman** are being frozen until National's size and price policy is ironed out.

Speculation is running wild concerning the two widely divergent

Copyright © 974 National Periodical Publications Inc

Copyright © 1974 National Periodical Publications Inc



Copyright © 1974 National Periodical Publications Inc

Copyright © 1974 National Periodical Publications Inc

prices of National Comics, with rumors about their switching to an entirely 60-cent line by the summer widely circulated. Letter response to the large size has been favorable, but the first sales figures will decide the matter.

According to Sol Harrison, vice-president of National, "It's too early to tell whether the 20-cent books can hold their own while the cost of paper, as well as printing prices in general, go up. If the smaller size proves unfeasible though, I will look forward to turning the entire line into 60-cent giants."

Sales on the dollar-sized books are continuing to remain strong, despite the unwieldy size and price. Upcoming Giants will include a **Superman, Ghosts** and **Rudolph**, with reprints of **Whiz** 2, **Superman** 1 and **Batman** 1 to appear this year. Not definite, but probable reprint classics for next year include **Wonder Woman** 1 and **Captain Marvel Adventures** 1.

Remember those books that were cancelled when the paper-shortage hit National? Well, the plates were made for them, and rather than throw out the expensive engravings, DC will be publishing the books as Summer Specials. The last issues of **Secret Origins, Weird Worlds, Supergirl** and **Lois Lane** will finally see print as one-shot publications, true collector's itmes for every fan.

Copyright © 1974 National Periodical Publications Inc

Copyright © 1974 National Periodical Publications Inc

The **Superfriends**, TV's counterpart of the **Justice League**, is reportedly very popular in some areas, and is doing quite well despite many errors made by the shows producers. Consequently, two ideas have developed that will probably go into production before the summer is out. The first is the publication of a **Superfriends** comic—the size as yet undecided. The first story, explaining many of the **JLA** practices ignored by the show, has already been written by E.

superfriends in superspecial

Nelson Bridwell, while the rest of the book will probably contain reprints of the League's adventures.

The second development to come out of the **Superfriends** is the interest in Captain Marvel at Hanna-Barbara. Negotiations are currently underway for the studio to produce a show tentatively titled **Shazam!**, but the major hang-up is National's insistance that they supervise the writing. Obviously unhappy with the way the Justice League has been handled, DC even wants to take care of the **Superfriends'** writing this season. The reply from Hollywood, however, was that they were not going to do any new shows—the reruns will keep them

going for years.

Frank Robbins appears to be firmly entrenched in the position of artist for the **Shadow.** There are several Robbins' stories already finished, while Mike Kaluta is still struggling to complete the one he has. The first reactions to the **Shadow** book will be coming in over the next few weeks, and a statement concerning the title's stature within the National framework should be forthcoming.

Meanwhile, just to fill in his spare time, Robbins continues to turn out short stories for Joe Orlando and Murray Boltinoff, as well as a cover for **House of Secrets,** complimenting an Alex Toth story that appears inside.

Sales on the **Shazam!** book ap-

to beck or not to beck

pear to be holding their own, and most everybody is anxious to see whether the loss of C. C. Beck will have any appreciable effect. Things are proceeding on a positive basis while waiting for the scores, and future issues will contain a gigantic Marvel Family story by Denny O'Neil that pits them against the Sivannas, Mr. Mind and Ibac. The following issue will involve Captain Marvel Jr. in an adventure with scientists and inventors. The next will involve Mary Marvel in a struggle against the Seven Deadly Enemies of Man in seven seperate stories

DC 100 PAGES FOR ONLY 60¢
EDGAR RICE BURROUGHS
Tarzan
LORD OF THE JUNGLE
"TARZAN AND THE LION MAN!"
★SPECIAL PIN-UP FROM THE MOVIES★
Copyright © 1974 National Periodical Publications Inc.

Copyright © 1974 National Periodical Publications Inc.

There are currently a number of projects in the works at National that are so secret that we can't reveal them as yet. We will say, however, that one of the projects involves the reappearance of one of the best written, drawn and presented series ever created. Negotiations are still going on now, and the chances of seeing the strip are very good. When the news is released, **MEDIASCENE** will be the first to cover it, and we can promise you that it is worth waiting for.

Charlton's line-up of comics is apparently once again secure. The lack of paper, necessitating the cancellation of printing for a while, only served to allow a backlog of material to be stacked up. Plans concerning new characters and new books were able to proceed without the usual deadline problems.

The September issue of **Mad Magazine** will be a special Cop-Out number featuring parodies on Serpicool and McClod. Mort Drucker, **Mad's** top satirist, has drawn the cover, his first for the magazine.

Following up his enormously successful **The Frankenstein Legend,** comic writer Don Glut is going to have **The Dracula Book** published by Scarecrow Press in the next few months. Rare photos of all the

Copyright © 1974 National Periodical Publications Inc.

Copyright © 1974 E. C. Publications, Inc.

Dracula stars are featured, as well as introductions by Christopher Lee and William Marshall (**Blacula**).

Meanwhile, Don's comic work at Gold Key continues unabated. **Dagar** 9 will feature the tale "Night of the Serpent," and will introduce Torgus, the Black Barbarian. This will be comics' first black sword and sorcery hero, and his appearances in **Dagar** 9 and 10 will hopefully draw some favorable mail. Don's hopes for the character's success even run so high as to praying to Crom for a Torgus book. **Dagar** 9 also features Don's compliance to a request made by Len Wein over a year ago, namely that Dagar get out of the rotting skin he wears, simply because it looks too much like Mighty Samson's. The shoulder

Copyright © 1974 National Periodical Publications Inc.

DC 100 PAGES FOR ONLY 60¢
THE SUPERMAN FAMILY
NEW!
A DEEP DEATH FOR THE ACTION
THE SECRET BEHIND "SUPERMAN'S GREATEST VICTORY!"
MEET PETE ROSS, ROBOT
LOIS LANE INSECT QUEEN
Copyright © 1974 National Periodical Publications Inc.

Copyright © 1974 Charlton Publications, Inc.

strap was originally a departure from the Conanesque breechcloth, but it will be rent asunder in **Dagar** 8, to be replaced with some chic new habedashery in 9.

Dagar 10 will be primarily a Torgus story, as Don pays homage to H. Rider Haggard's **She** in "The Emerald Flame." Issue 11 will be titled "It Lurks by Night," and will present a guest-appearance by Tragg, the caveman. Through the

gold key goodies

magic of scallop-bordered flashback, we learn that Tragg was the architect of a Stonehenge-like calendar. Returning to Dagar's time we then learn that the structure is believed to be the weird temple to some strange god that lives beneath the earth. With issue 12, Durak will return as Glut tries to slip a Dagar/Tragg/Durak epic past his editors.

Don will also continue to surrepititiously unravel his strange Dark Gods stories in the back pages of **Dr. Spektor.** Issue 9 will star Simbar the Lion-Man in a story titled "The Pit." From now on Simbar will begin to take on a more important role in Spektor's life, after Don's proverbial "big change." The second story in **Spektor** 10

Copyright © 1974 Charlton Publications, Inc.

will explain the origin of the Dark Gods in the tale "When Gods Collide." The back-up tale in 11 will feature a solo appearance by Baron Tibor, the living vampire, in "Of Bats and Men."

Starting with **Spektor** 12, the good Doctor will be featured in full-length 25-page long adventures for a duration of at least three issues. Don likes working within this format, and hopes that his readers will write in, and that sales figures will reflect approval of the policy.

There are a number of new ideas brewing at Gold Key, but we can't reveal them all right now. What we can let you know about is the possibility of the publication of a new adventure book written and created by Glut, a second Dr. Spektor book that will feature the Doctor introducing **Mystery Digest** reprints; and a surprising Spektor cross-over. Don is especially excited about this cross-over, saying that it will startle even the most jaded fan.

Mike Friedrich has formed his own comics company on the west coast, and has published the first issue of **Star Reach,** featuring the work of Jim Starlin and Howie Chaykin. The magazine, in black and white, sells for 75 cents and is reportedly doing quite well.

Also coming from California soon will be a new firm called West Coast Comics, spearheaded by Tad Hunter. Working for him will be Barry Smith, Jim Starlin, Alan Weiss, Steve Englehart, Frank Brunner, Dave Sheridan and Gary Hallgren. West Coast is supposed to publish four bi-monthly books that will be 52 pages long with 40 pages of art and three text stories. Each book will have a full-color cover and black and white interiors. The rates are to be the same as Marvel's.

The first of the West Coast Comics is called **Beyond,** and is scheduled for a July 1 release. This is supposedly "comics' history in the making", and it marks "the beginning of comic pro's getting into so-called 'underground comix.'"

Working in the opposite direction, underground comix entrepreneur,

kitchen kommercial komics

Denis Kitchen has been hired to edit a new magazine called **Comix International,** a monthly publication featuring comics by the top young cartoonists in the U.S. and Europe.

Comix International is not an underground book, despite Kitchen's association. It will be financed by Cadence Industries, Marvel Comics parent organization, and will be

Midnight TALES
ALL NEW
UNCLE, I THINK YOU'D BETTER HAND ME THE LARGE CAN
The MIDNIGHT PHILOSOPHER And ARACHNE in...
THE SORCERESS
Copyright © 1974 Charlton Publications, Inc.

distributed on the newsstands. Not a Marvel comic, this magazine will be printed on white offset paper instead of newsprint, will consist of 64 8¼ X 11 inch pages and will cost one dollar. The first issue is to hit the stands in middle July and will feature prominently both original and reprint artwork.

The International Numismatic Agency, fallowing the lead of the Hallmark coins of Spider-Man, the Hulk and Conan, has announced that it will distribute a new series of six bronze and silver bars, **The Heroes of the Comics,** commemmorating Superman, Batman and Robin, Wonder Woman, The Phantom, Mandrake the Magician and Flash

superheroes in silver

Gordon.

The Agency is offering these new bars, until June 5, 1974 at the introductory price of $15 for the silver and $6.50 for the bronze, after that date they will cost $18 and $7 respectively. Orders are now being accepted at The International Numismatic Agency, 96 Prince Street, NYC 10012. Add 75 cents for postage and handling for each bar.●

After more than forty years of newspaper strip syndication in a dozen languages around the world, space adventurer Flash Gordon makes the transition from the comic panel to the printed page. The galactic exploits of Flash and his crew are now available as full-length novels, based on the original stories of his creator, Alex Raymond.

The series of novels, a joint publishing venture between AVON BOOKS and King Feature Syndicate, is introduced in the now-on-sale edition of **The Lion Men of Mongo.** An interplanetary thriller, it details the landing made by Flash, his lovely assistant Dale Arden and Dr. Zarkov on the planet Mongo, and the battle to restore freedom to its enslaved inhabitants by defeating the nefarious emperor, Ming the Merciless.

avon flash sci-fi smash pb cash

The Plague of Sound and **The Space Circus**, the second and third titles of the series due in May and June, feature Flash in mortal combat with a man-eating spider in a city beneath the planet, and performing as a captive trapeze artist in a circus of slaves.

Alex Raymond, a native of New Rochelle, New York, began producing the Flash Gordon epic for King Features in 1934; he was also the creator of two other comic strip classics, Jungle Jim and Rip Kirby. While Raymond was successful both as a combat artist in the Marines and as a magazine illustrator, he chose to remain a cartoonist because, he revealed, "comic art is an art form in itself . . . and actually is more artistic. An illustrator works with a camera and models; a comic artist begins with a white sheet of paper and dreams up his whole business—he is playwright, director, editor and artist at once."

Currently on sale from BALLANTINE, a hefty, new sci-fi epic guaranteed to keep you up for several nights of lively entertaining reading, **Icerigger.** Written by Alan Dean Foster, author of **Bloodhype** and **Luana**, the novel follows the adventures and misadventures of Ethan Fortune as he inadvertantly stumbles into an absurd hijacking attempt, is joined by a gargantuan drunk, and finds himself stranded on a deadly, frozen planet with the unlikely name of Tran-ky-ky. From that point on, Foster paints a rollicking word picture of the most uproarious and unlikely adventures this side of Alpha Centuri.

More Foster is in store in the June edition of **Star Trek Log One,** a trio of tales adapted from the current animated TV series. The first of a series.

The Legend of Miaree is a startling new novel of galaxies and races long disappeared—and of Miaree, a delicately-furred, winged creature whose world is ultimately doomed by collision with another planet and how, betrayed by her human mate, she takes her revenge. **The Best of Stanley G. Weinbaum** is also on hand—the first paperback collection of the author's most important and entertaining sagas.

Both a breathtaking adventure and a moving love story, **Merlin's Ring** is the magical tale of two immortal lovers—a woman of Atlantis and the godson of Merlin the magician. H. Warner Munn takes his readers from the world of Atlantis across the centuries to the dawn of mankind's history to weave an unforgettable epic of unusual power.

Coming from BALLANTINE in June, **A Hole in Space,** a sparkling new collection of stories by Hugo and Nebula award winner, Larry Nivin. In these tales—all about teleportation, deep space, black holes, and artificial worlds—Nivin again proves he's a master builder of fantastic worlds. Also due is James White's **The Dream Millennium,** a superb hard-core science fiction novel by the author of **The Watch Below.** Escaping a polluted Earth, the passengers of a thousand-year voyage in search of a habitable planet are plagued by unshakable nightmares which threaten their sanity and their mission.

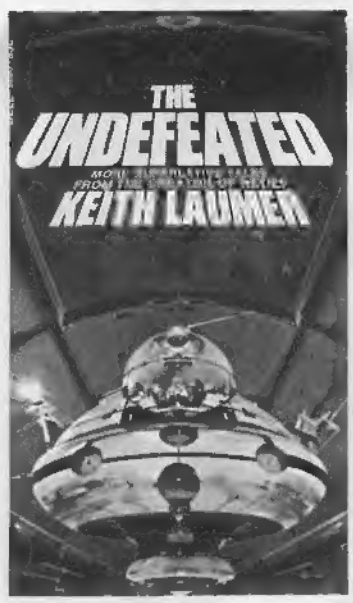
Eight new writers are showcased in the first edition of **Science Fiction Emphasis.** Ronald Cain, Michael Toman and Don Picard are a few of the names featured in addition to Michael Bishop with his novella **On the Street of the Serpents. The UFO Experience,** written by J. Allen Hynek, the nation's foremost UFO authority, is a revealing appraisal of the investigations made on the hundreds of sightings by the U.S. Air Force and private commissions. UFO freaks will find a wealth of data inside.

More flying saucer sightings are documented in John Fuller's best-selling **Incident at Exeter,** now in paperback from BERKLEY. Also due is Fuller's **Interrupted Journey,** the true story of Betty and Barney Hill who were captured and interrogated by metallic-gray humanoids within the confines of an alien spacecraft. A motion picture based on the encounter is reported under production.

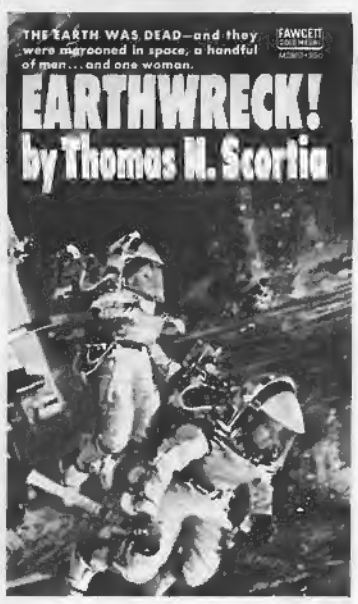
The **Chariots of the Gods** craze has spawned a wave of books on the subject including **The Home of the Gods** and **The Gods Unknown.** Both volumes search among the ruins of the past to document the existence of superior beings who visited the Earth and procreated our ancient civilizations.

Michael Moorcock, who plotted the destinies of Elric, Erekose and Dorian Hawkmoon and a legion of other barbarians and sorcerers, has conjured up the final two epics in the Chronicles of Corum, **The Oak and The Ram** and **The Sword and**

The Lion Men of Mongo



SCIENCE FICTION ORIGINAL
HUGO AND NEBULA AWARD WINNER
LARRY NIVEN
A HOLE IN SPACE
A COLLECTION OF SCIENCE-FICTION ADVENTURES FROM A MASTER STORY-TELLER!



The Stallion. A series of great and perilous labors behind him, the Prince of the Scarlet Robes engages in the final mortal combat against the forces of chaos. Superb sword and sorcery!

During the past year, BERKLEY has continually increased its science fiction output to the point of becoming a qualified contender with the established SF publishing houses. New editions to their line-up includes the 12th volume in Damon Knight's celebrated series **Orbit,** featuring stories by Kate Wilhelm, Brian Aldiss, Ursula K. Le-Guin and others.

A E. van Vogt fans will find the classic **World of Null-A** back in print again. The story describes Gilbert Gosseyn's excruciating and bewildering attempts to regain his sanity in a world whose logic is based on non-Aristotlean precepts. In **The Players of Null-A,** van Vogt creates a rare and complex sequel to the original novel. Though Gosseyn has learned his Null-A lessons well, even his double brain cannot outwit the mysterious Follower. Top speculative fiction!

Offbeat SF entertainment will be found in Lindsay Gutteridge's **Killer Pine.** Matt Dilke is a one-quarter inch tall micro-hero who, with his mini-sidekicks, Hyacinthe and Jonathan, tries to contain a rampaging insect horde who threatens to destroy the forests of the Rocky Mountains.

This month BERKLEY releases a trio of first-rate Philip K. Dick novels beginning with **The Man in the High Castle,** which explores an alternative history originating with an Axis victory in World War 2. Germans dominate the eastern United States while Japanese influence the West Coast. A Hugo Award winner.

In **Counter-Clock World** the year is 1998 and times have changed. The future has somehow reversed its flow—the dead come back to life and people grow younger instead of older. **Galactic Pot-Healer** recounts the adventures of Joe Fernwright, a skilled mender of pots in a lonely, all-plastic world of the future. The action begins when Joe gets an offer to undertake a dangerous mission from a powerful alien.

FAWCETT has a long string of Issac Asimov books in publication and is about to add another significent one to the growing list. **The Early Asimov** traces the author's earliest work through 13 never-before-collected stories. Each is chronologically arranged and prefaced with Asimov's own comments,

memories and anecdotes. A must for Asimov fans—and who isn't!

Thomas Scortia, the author of **The Glass Inferno,** seems to be making a practice of disaster and catastrophe, and does it again in his new novel. **Earthwreck** is the story of an American and a Russian space station—and its inhabitants, watching their brothers on Earth destroy one another in a nuclear holocaust that leaves the planet buried under a blanket of radioactivity. If mankind is to survive there is nothing to do but join forces. Together, they build a colony on the moon. Could they bear life imprisoned in a man-made pocket of air and shelter—with only one woman amongst them? There seemed to be no alternative. Yet

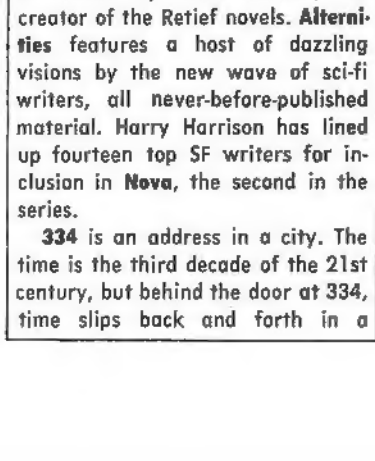
inferno author plots fawcett earthwreck

what if they failed?

SIGNET has just released **Zardoz**, the novelization of the exciting, new Sean Connery film from 20th Century-Fox. The book, written by director John Boorman, narrates the odyssey of Zed the Warrior in a wild barbarian future—caught between the savage Brutals and the all-powerful Eternals.

A Fall of Moondust is also on the racks this month. Board the tourist moonbus Selena and ride with death beneath the Sea of Thirst, as Arthur C. Clark takes off on yet another captivating journey beyond the realm of human knowledge. SF readers will find **The Beast That Shouted Love at the Heart of the World** difficult to resist. The book reprints 15 wild and way-out stories that represent the best of Harlan Ellison. Don't miss it!

Can America be shocked back to its senses by a self-appointed Messiah of Terror? Aging horror film star, Simon Moro, means to find out—and launches a ghastly assult on the nerves of the nation. From



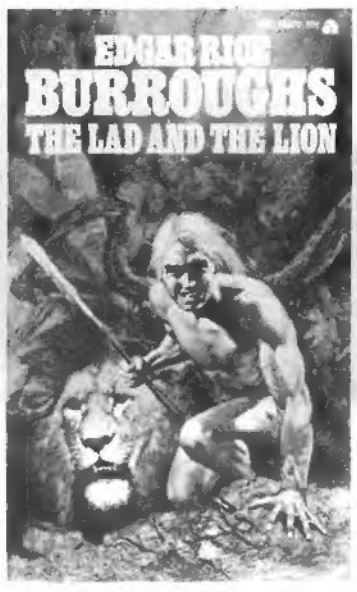
appalling viewers coast-to-coast on the Carson show to preparing his ultimate, climactic outrage of horror, Moro wages a brilliantly gruesome crusade to scare the country out of its wits. Look for **The Late Great Creature** by Brock Brower in paperback from POPULAR LIBRARY.

Connoisseurs of speculative fiction will grant open approval to a new selection of anthologies from DELL beginning with **Time-Jump**, ten startling surprises from Hugo award winner John Brunner. **The Undefeated** showcases a collection of stories by Keith Laumer, the creator of the Retief novels. **Alternities** features a host of dazzling visions by the new wave of sci-fi writers, all never-before-published material. Harry Harrison has lined up fourteen top SF writers for inclusion in **Nova**, the second in the series.

334 is an address in a city. The time is the third decade of the 21st century, but behind the door at 334, time slips back and forth in a bizarre, erotic and humorous series of encounters. Thomas M. Disch, who has established himself in the front ranks of SF writers with his previous books, **Camp Concentration** and **The Genocides**, turns to a unique, new mode of fiction in **334**, an AVON original.

The Doors of His Face, The Lamps of His Mouth is the prize-winning title story that serves to introduce fifteen selections by Roger Zelazny, in a hefty, new edition from AVON. Editor Jerry Pournelle, whose professional occupation is future-forecasting, has commissioned eight of the best science-fiction writers to construct their own personal visions of how things will be in the year 2020. Pournelle argues convincingly that the 1970's just might be the golden age of mankind—and backs it up with a cluster of yarns built on the decisions that are being made today. **2020 Vision**—good reading, dazzling ideas.

Werewolves, bloody sacrifices, chimeras, unicorns, monsters!! Charles G. Finney's **The Circus of Dr.**



Lao is back in print from AVON. When the traveling troupe of bizarre and fantastical creatures assults the credulity of a hot, literal-minded Arizona town with a show of stupendous absurdity, it makes for a novel that is spirited and amusing, erotic and obstreperous, wildly imaginative and original. A must to read at least once.

Over the years, ACE BOOKS has been publishing the novels of Edgar Rice Burroughs, and is currently stocking an armful of hard-to-find adventure classics. ERB wove

BALLANTINE FANTASY 24010
$1.95
Epic fantasy that spans the centuries between the loss of Atlantis and 1500 A.D.
MERLIN'S RING
H. WARNER MUNN
Introduction by Lin Carter
FIRST TIME IN PRINT

many of his characters and themes into established series and ACE has most of them back in print.

The Venus series recounts the interplanetary exploits of Carson Napier, the Wrong-Way Corrigan of science fiction. Attempting to pilot a rocket to Mars, Carson hoped to meet the immortal John Carter. Through an unfortunate error in compensating for the moon's gravity, he soon found himself in the mist-enshrouded forests of Venus, battling giant spiders and striped Tharbans. Burroughs kept the pulse-pounding prose going through five novels in the series: **Carson of, Escape on, The Wizard of, Lost on,** and **The Pirates of Venus.**

In the Pellucidar adventures, David Innes and Abner Perry tunnel to the center of the Earth to discover excitement and danger in a brutal, prehistoric "inner world." The seven novels of the series, **At the Earth's Core, Back to the Stone Age, The Land of Terror, Pellucidar, Savage Pellucidar, Tanar of Pellucidar** and **Tarzan At the Earth's Core,** represent one of ERB's most expansive and action-packed epics.

Besides the two major series, ACE has also published **The Land That Time Forgot, The People That Time Forgot** and **Out of Time's Abyss**—Burroughs' fast-paced trilogy about the adventures of Bowen

Tyler and company on the mysterious lost continent of Caprona. This mini-series is currently being filmed by American-International and stars Doug McClure in the lead role.

The Moon Maid and its sequel **The Moon Men** envision Burroughs' chilling and exotic look into the future where the crew of a sabotaged interplanetary flight discovers a world of winged women, conical cities and semi-human monsters on the Moon. When the savage Lunarians conquer the Earth, the

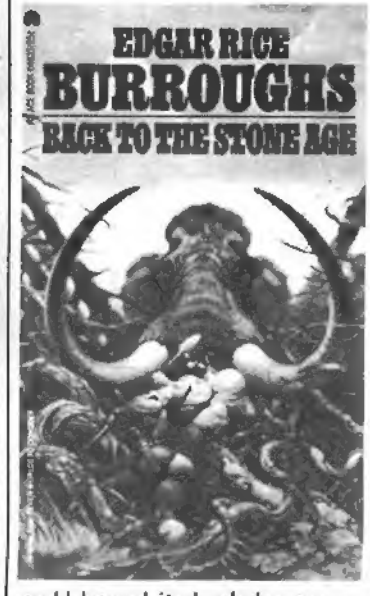
ace books' burroughs bonanza

planet's population is reduced to tribal life and slavery—and a long, harrowing batttle to regain their freedom and supremacy from the alien plunderers.

Long thought to be one of ERB's "lost" works, **Beyond the Farthest Star** was planned as the cornerstone of a new series. Projecting the war that was taking place on Earth at the time (1942) to another planet, Burroughs created Tangor, mighty soldier and swordsman to free the new world from its cruel, deadly captors.

The savage, prehistoric jungles that generated ERB's original successes, are the danger-ridden settings in ACE's reissues of **The Eternal Savage, The Lad and The Lion, The Land of Hidden Man,** and **The Cave Girl.** Like Tarzan, these novels conjure up shadowy primeval wildernesses and mighty-thewed heroes who battle their way to ultimate triumph through overwhelming odds.

One of the few excursions into the fantasy/horror genre, **The Monster Men** recounts the grim tale of Number Thirteen, a man-made creature who, like the Frankenstein monster, turns on his creator. In **The Lost Continent,** the United Americas had become a 22nd century fortress of civilization, barricaded against any contact with the



world beyond its bordering oceans. Then Jeff Turck dared take his U.S. aero-sub across the 30th Longitude West, and took the first step to rediscover and reunite the world. Originally titled **Beyond Thirty,** it is perhaps Burroughs' rarest novel.

Occasionally ERB took his characters into the realms of historical romance which, though neither jungle or sci-fi oriented, are nonetheless tales of high adventure and blazing action. Apparently influenced by the Prisoner of Zenda theme, Burroughs charted the story of an American soldier of fortune who resembled a Balkan monarch, **The Mad King.** With dazzling swordsmanship and swashbuckling, Barney Custer assumes the mantle of authority to rally a subjugated country from a despotic take-over. In **The Outlaw of Torn,** the life and loves of the "greatest swordsman in all of England" unfolds in an epic adventure to reveal his dramatic rise to royal stature.

Burroughs' fans will find **Master of Adventure** a definitive biography of the man who created a legion of unforgettable heroes in American fiction. Author Dick Lupoff offers a wealth of fascinating data on one of the world's widest read novelists and his creations.

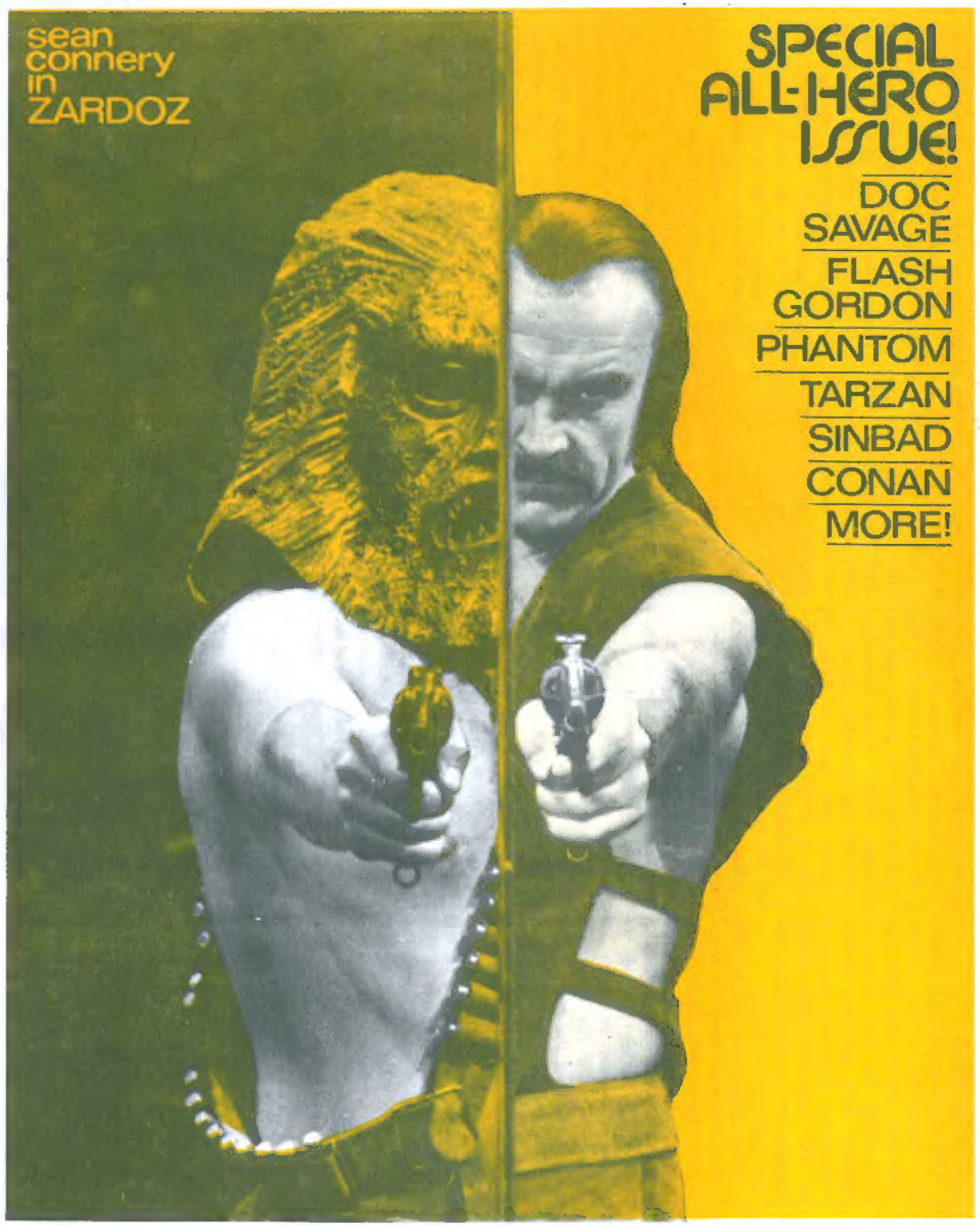
Collectors will find ACE BOOKS Burroughs line-up rewarding for two reasons—besides the obvious fun of reading them. First, all editions are uniformly designed and have exceptional graphic appeal as a collectors' set. Second, they are all still available at under a dollar—a minimum price as paperbacks go these days. If you can't locate what you're looking for at the local newsstand, write for ACE's price list.

MEDIASCENE spotlights more SF series next issue. Don't miss it!●

NO.9 • INCORPORATING COMIXSCENE • MARCH–APRIL 1974 • SEVENTY-FIVE CENTS

MEDIASCENE

COMICS FILMS PAPERBACKS UNDERGROUNDS TV PULPS



SPECIAL ALL-HERO ISSUE!

DOC SAVAGE
FLASH GORDON
PHANTOM
TARZAN
SINBAD
CONAN
MORE!

BOX 445/WYOMISSING, PA./19610
MEDIASCENE
A SUPERGRAPHICS PUBLICATION

TV
FILMS
PULPS
COMICS
PAPERBACKS
UNDERGROUNDS

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

BULK RATE
U. S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 681
READING, PA.